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Friday May 24 1996

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Arts, books and music

Review

Interview: Claes Oldenburg

Manic Street Preachers' return

Life without Richey

Plus: the physics of Star Trek

Public vs private care

Margaret Drabble: who will pay for my old age?

This section page 9



Lord Taylor: 'Never in the history of our criminal law have such far-reaching proposals been put forward on the strength of such flimsy and dubious evidence'



Lord Donaldson, former Master of the Rolls: 'It is as deplorable as it is unprecedented. I can find nothing in the conduct of the judiciary which justifies this lack of trust'



Lord Belstead, chairman of the parole board, former leader of the Lords, and ex-Home Office minister: 'The Home Secretary is really in practical grave danger of jeopardising the main aim of the White Paper'



Lord Carlisle, former Tory Home Office minister: 'The proposals are unjustified by argument, illogical and badly thought through. It won't be an increase of 10,000 but something like 30 per cent to 40 per cent of the prison population. Where are they going to go?'



Lord Carr, former Conservative Home Secretary: 'The Government cannot just go into reverse like this without explaining to the public why they were fundamentally wrong six years ago and are now fundamentally right'



Lord Windlesham, former Conservative Home Office minister and ex-Parole Board chairman: 'The essentially punitive strategy it sets out is misconceived and is likely to prove counter-productive'



Lord Elton, former Tory Home Office minister: 'I find myself more and more convinced this is the wrong battle, fought on the wrong grounds at the wrong time'



Lord Williams of Mostyn, Labour, former chairman of the Bar Council: 'It is as perversion of justice. It is an infinite shame, that matters of this sort are dealt with on the basis of mottoes at party conferences. It demeans our society'

'A perversion of justice'



dangerous and persistent criminals. I do not believe they are getting that protection from the courts' PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ANGLIS

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

THE Tory Establishment last night combined with Britain's most senior judges to launch a persistent and devastating attack on Michael Howard, sealing his reputation as Britain's worst Home Secretary for nearly 40 years.

The unprecedented onslaught yesterday from the legal establishment was led by the retiring Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, and was combined with accusations of his betrayal of 12 years of Conservative policies by former Tory ministers.

The 3½-hour attack in the House of Lords marked the day that the Establishment made plain it would no longer tolerate a shameless Home Secretary whose three years in office have been marked by repeated prison fiascos, US-style authoritarian penal policies, and repeated defeats in the courts.

Not since Henry Brooke in the 1950s, whose repeated blunders over capital punishment and prison escapes led to his defeat at a general election, has there been a home secretary whose policies have provoked such widespread criticism within and without the criminal justice system.

Mr Howard's refusal to apologise or change course — on display again last night — further undermined the knowledge that John Major cannot sack him without opening up an entirely new internal party dispute which would threaten to engulf the entire Government.

The sustained onslaught in the House of Lords centred on Mr Howard's white paper proposing the introduction of US-style "three strikes and you're out" law and order package.

The valedictory speech from Lord Taylor, who is seriously ill, gave a clear warning to Mr Howard that he faces from Lord Taylor, who is seriously ill, gave a clear warning

Lord Taylor said he had decided to stage the special said. Lord Taylor said he had de-



IF YOU SUE UP HOWARD, I'LL LET YOU OFF WITH PROSE-CRIME.

huge difficulties in getting his flagship law and order bill on to the statute book before the general election.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, tried to defend the Home Secretary's policy last night on the grounds that it was justified by public opinion, but he admitted that the "some 25 or 30 letters" from the public since the white paper was published in April "divided almost equally between those who support the proposals and those find fault".

Mr Howard, who also clearly believes it remains a mere winner, was unshaken. He admitted he was limiting the historic discretion of the courts but said the judges were being soft.

"My over-riding responsibility is to give the ordinary citizens the protection they are entitled to," he said. "I do not believe they are getting that protection from the courts," he said.

'The shallow and untested figures in the white paper do not describe fairly and clearly the problems the Government seeks to address — still less do they justify the radical "solutions" it proposes'

House of Lords debate despite his illness because he believed "it was important for me, while still holding the office of Lord Chief Justice, to inform directly of the very grave consequences" of the Home Secretary's package. His successor will be announced today.

The introduction of mandatory minimum sentences for repeat burglars and drug dealers "quite simply must involve a denial of justice", he said. It amounted to the jettisoning of government policy spelled out five years ago which rejected minimum sentences as they would result in more guilty people going free.

That policy was "self-evidently wise, fair and just" and he went on to ask "why every one of those propositions of government policy so recently propounded is now to be jettisoned and replaced by its exact opposite?"

Worse was to come. Mr Howard's package was also unworkable and based on inadequate research: "Never in the history of our criminal law have such far-reaching proposals been put forward on the strength of such flimsy and dubious evidence," he said.

adequate research: "Never in the history of our criminal law have such far-reaching proposals been put forward on the strength of such flimsy and dubious evidence," he said.

"The shallow and untested figures in the white paper do not describe fairly and clearly the problems the Government seeks to address — still less do they justify the radical 'solutions' it proposes."

Judges used the ability to tailor the sentence to the offence — to make the punishment fit the crime," said Lord Taylor.

"It cannot be right for sentences to be passed without regard to the gravity, frequency, consequences or other circumstances of the offending."

The real public concern about the risks of releasing a tiny minority of dangerous criminals could be better met by other ways of assessing their risk to the public.

The Lord Chief Justice found support from every corner of the House of Lords with the former Master of the Rolls, Lord Donaldson, arguing that Mr Howard's white paper demonstrated an unprecedented and deplorable

Leader comment, page 8

Datastream Cowboy fixes the Pentagon in his sights

Martin Walker in Washington

THE Pentagon's computers were infiltrated 160,000 times by hackers last year, a United States government agency has told Congress after a long investigation provoked by a 16-year-old British hacker known as the Datastream Cowboy.

As many as 250,000 attacks were made on the Pentagon computers and two out of three succeeded, according to the general accounting office, the federal government's watchdog, which conducted its own hacking operations and a survey of the Pentagon's test attacks mounted by the Defense Information Systems Agency.

The Pentagon detected only one in 25 of the test attacks, and even then fewer than a third were reported.

"At a minimum, these attacks are a multi-million dollar nuisance to defence," the general accounting office report concluded, acknowledging that most had no criminal intent. "At worst, they are a serious threat to national security."

"In some extreme scenarios, studies show that terrorists or other adversaries could seize control of defence information systems and seriously degrade the nation's

ability to deploy and sustain military forces," the report added.

The Pentagon played down the alarms, claiming that only unclassified data bases were at risk. Classified security networks are kept in guarded buildings, with data access links screened and encoded and monitored.

"We are not taking lightly the repetitive and constant attacks on unclassified networks," said Pentagon spokeswoman Susan Hansen. "But we have confidence in the security of our classified systems."

The unclassified systems contain information on subjects such as the weather,

spare parts inventories, maintenance and repair schedules, and logistics for military bases. An alert intelligence system could put together useful information from this.

"There are no credible reports of successful attacks on classified systems," said Jim Christy, director of computer security for the US air force. That he noted, was the good news. The bad news was that "you can't fly and fight without unclassified systems".

The main fear is that hackers can obtain the passwords and access codes to leapfrog into high security computer systems — the trick being

Turn to page 2, column 6

First steps in untangling US defence Web

MISSION Impossible? MIHill, no, writes Bill O'Neil. First let's check out the Pentagon's Web site. They're not going to let you in by this front door, but its Web address, or URL (uniform resource locator), could be worth a few taps on the keyboard. But this was the first disappointment. "Pentagon" brought up 20,000 clues through AltaVista, which searches the Net with a key word.

So, it was off to the White House Web site, and yes, there it was, the Pentagon listed under the "Interactive Citizen's Guidebook" of Federal services. This route provided an address that linked to the Pentagon. And it was the first section of that lengthy URL (www.dtic.dia.mil) that represented one of the computers that was possibly inside the organisation's HQ.

Using Telnet, a program that allows you to log on to a computer remotely, connection was swift. Back came a unique number that identifies the computer, and we waited for the logon prompt...

Inside

Britain
A financier jailed for covering up the murders of his parents on Jersey is out of jail and may inherit their fortune **2**

World News
Boris Yeltsin's men to meet rebel Chechen leaders in Moscow as hopes rise of a breakthrough to the conflict in Chechnya **6**

Finance
Gambles Nation paid Matthew Corbett £100 million for the intellectual rights to Scotty, the glove puppet whose best friend is Sweep **11**

Sport
England stroled to a 3-0 victory over China and readied themselves to face a Hong Kong Select their final warm-up to Euro 96 **16**

Comment and Letters 8
Obituaries 10
Review
Crossword 15; Weather 16; Radio 16; TV 16

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Sketch

Hall's well that ends well, ma'am



Maev Kennedy

MORE than three years after the bonfire that lit up her Annus Floribilis, the Queen's great staid hall at Windsor Castle is still a forest of scaffolding poles. The desolation, all the tourists see when they peer through the glass door from the intact apartments next door, is deceptive. Above the scaffolding in St George's Hall, the largest green oak Gothic ceiling built this century is nearing completion. In another two years, guests at state banquets should be able to sit down to dinner beneath it.

John Thorneycroft, English Heritage's chief adviser on royal palaces, climbs the scaffolding for a last look at fragments of a lost masterpiece. Just before Christmas he was ready to shout "Stop!" An archaeologist cleaned a shadow on a piece of plaster, and saw what Mr Thorneycroft calls "cabbage-ish leaves" emerge, and then an artist.

First night

Local angle on the moral maze

Michael Billington

THE HERBAL BED: The Other Place, Stratford. NOT since Edward Bond's Bingo has Stratford staged such a local play as Peter Whelan's The Herbal Bed: most of the action takes place round the corner from the theatre at Hall's Croft. But, although the plot revolves around an action for slander brought by Shakespeare's daughter, Susanna, in 1613, the real fascination of this gripping play lies in a much larger issue: the conflict between secular passion and puritan conscience.

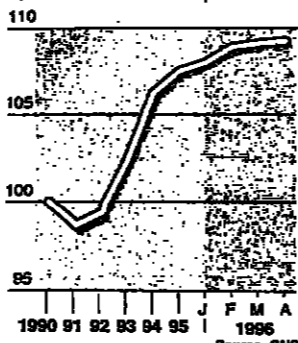
Susanna, who has her father's gift for dissembling, represents the conflict between passion and survival. Hall and Smith, both religious puritans, show how conscience can be trimmed by expediency: the former for the sake of his medical practice and the latter to save Susanna. The one character of fixed principle is the Vicar-General who carries out the ruthless court intrigue.

Economy limits scope for a giveaway budget, CBI warns the Chancellor

Sarah Ryle and Larry Elliott

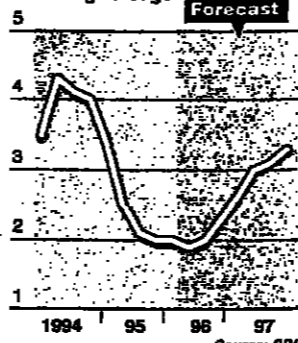
BUSINESS leaders today warned the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, that slow economic growth and the hole in the Government's finances rule out all but the most modest tax cuts in the last Budget before the election.

Retail sales



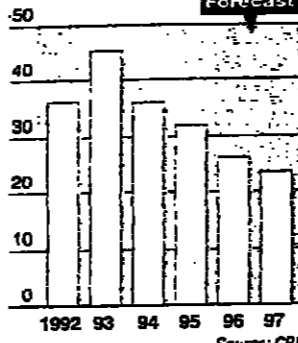
Because of subdued price expectations for factory goods, combined with other forecasts for the economy, the CBI expects continuing low inflation, muted earnings growth and a slow fall in un-

GDP



employment to 2.1 million by the end of the year. But it said that despite the slowdown, there would be no further interest rate cuts this year, with borrowing costs pegged at 6 per cent.

PSBR



The economy grew by 0.3 per cent in the first three months of the year, requiring growth of 1.25 per cent in each of the next quarters if the Government is to hit its 3 per cent prediction.

Analysts said the outlook for high street spending was reasonably healthy. The shadow trade and industry secretary, Margaret Beckett, said the problem was a lack of investment, while the CBI highlighted the impact of recession in Europe on manufacturing exports.

Murder plot son is out of jail and in the money



Murder victims Elizabeth and Nicholas Newall

Fewer than two years after going to prison, a man who covered up his parents' death can inherit a fortune

IAN MACINNIS. A FORMER financier jailed for helping his brother to cover up the murder of their wealthy parents in Jersey is free to inherit part of the family fortune after being freed less than two years into a six-year sentence.

Home Office sources said Mark Newall was released on parole three weeks ago, 20 months after being convicted, because the time he spent in custody had been taken into account.



Mark Newall (left) and his brother Roderick at their parents' funeral. They were later charged over their parents' deaths

Mark Newall, aged 31, who is serving a life sentence in La Moye prison, Jersey, for the 1977 murders, was convicted in August 1994. Their parents, Nicholas Newall, aged 66, and Elizabeth, aged 46, were battered to death with a blunt instrument during a drunken argument at their home in St Eradale's Bay after a birthday celebration.

Neutral Europe helped Nazis hide war loot

Martin Walker in Washington

THE declassification by the United States National Archives of thousands of previously secret documents is throwing up accusations that companies and financial institutions in neutral European countries worked hand in hand with the Nazis to hide their looted millions.

The material is providing the first serious confirmation that Nazi leaders and German industrialists conspired in late-1944 to shift gold and other assets to Switzerland to finance the post-war revival of a Nazi-led German empire.

counts, the holdings and the account holders in the US — and it is dated July 1941, five months before the US even came into the war. The documents, some of them obtained by US and British intelligence officials in 1945, and some part of the vast cache of Nazi and German military records which were microfilmed by the American archivists, also record the enthusiastic co-operation of British and American intelligence teams in gathering the information.

Datastream Cowboy fixes Pentagon in his sights

continued from page 1

When the Datastream Cowboy was identified and arrested on May 12, 1994, Pentagon computer sleuths believe the British teenager, whose name has not been released, was working with a more experienced mentor. Known only by his Cyber-space name of Kujil, he is suspected of being a foreign intelligence agent.

Boy, 11, guilty of slab killing

Martin Wainwright

AN 11-year-old boy gaped in disbelief at his mother yesterday as a jury at Leeds crown court found him guilty of killing a pensioner by toppling a concrete slab 12 storeys on to her head.

The unanimous manslaughter verdict was reached after only 65 minutes by the nine women and three men, who were thanked by the judge for "trying such a difficult case". Sentence was adjourned for three weeks for reports on the boy, who was said by witnesses to have roared with laughter after friends told him that someone had been hit. The slab, part of a broken lightning conductor on the roof of Grayson Heights flats in Kirkstall, Leeds, crushed the skull of Edna Condie, aged 74, as she returned from shopping with her daughter.

Advertisement for 'mother of god' by DAVID AMBROSE. Includes text: 'Who are you? 'I have no name.' 'What do you want?' 'I want you.' Are you being stalked on the net? read mother of god by DAVID AMBROSE Then start worrying... A WHSMITH THUMPING GOOD READ 1996'





Street cleaner John Duffy: 'The pavements are cleaner now'



Flower seller John Fitzgerald: 'I'm afraid they're right'



Scruffiness is the order of the day for one Mancunian passerby and sartorial standards in the shop window are casual

PHOTOGRAPHS DON MAPHIE

'Vermin'

Nemo bonus Brito est (No good man is a Briton) Ausonius, Epigrams, 4th century AD

Long beards heartless, painted hoods witless, gay coats graceless make England thrifless Thomas Fuller, Worthless of England, 1662

That vain, ill-natured thing, an Englishman Daniel Defoe, The True Born Englishman, 1701

I cannot but conclude the bulk of your natives to be the most pernicious race of little odious vermin Jonathan Swift, Gulliver's Travels, 1726.

I should like my country well enough, if it were not for my countrymen Horace Walpole (d.1710), Letters.

The English, it must be owned, are a foul-mouthed nation William Hazlitt, Table Talk, 1821.

King William IV blew his nose twice and wiped the Royal perspiration repeatedly from a face which is probably the largest uncivilised spot in England Oliver Wendell Holmes, Life and Letters, 1881.

No Englishman has any common sense, or ever had, or ever will have George Bernard Shaw, John Bull's Other Island

Are we a nation of louts? Think tank says yes, and others agree

'Clumsy codes of correctness are no replacement for good manners'

Gary Younge

COURTESY costs you nothing. But Britain is paying dearly for its persistent bad manners which are making everyday life "unpredictable, uneasy and unpleasant", according to a book published yesterday

by a right-wing think tank. "Loutishness on the streets, slovenly and aggressive dress, swearing, cheating sportsmen, parents aping the style and slang of teenagers and a false chumminess from doctors and other professions point to a crisis in manners," said a spokesman for the independent Social Affairs Unit yesterday.

The book, Gentility Recalled: 'Mere' Manners and the Making of Social Order, comprises essays by 12 academics.

The book claims that, "when it comes to civilizing men's treatment of women,

the young's behaviour to the elderly or even smokers treatment of non-smokers, artificial and clumsy codes of political correctness are no replacement for old-fashioned good manners."

"Leather jackets, studded leather boots, pierced noses and aggressive tattoos... are declarations of war, the war of the sexes, the generations, the classes, the war of all against all," claims Athena S. Leoussi, a sociology lecturer at the University of Reading.

Predictably, most of the blame lies at the door of the 1960s generation who have been passing their filthy hab-

its down to their children. "Small wonder that the young are bad-mannered if the old do not act their age," writes Professor Anthony O'Hear of the University of Bradford. And when it is not predicting the society collapsing under the weight of its own foul-mouthed tearaways the authors are reminiscing about the good old days.

"People of my generation well remember an age when the terms ladies and gentlemen were common usage," writes Rachel Trickett, former principal of St Hughes College, Oxford. Ms Trickett is 72.

'Young people feel they have to be more aggressive than the next guy'

Martin Walwright

RESIDED over by the benign, sculpted figure of William Cobden, St Ann's Square in Manchester seemed a comprehensive proof to the Social Affairs Unit yesterday. Britain's favourite word - sorry -

was much in evidence as Mancunians politely skirted one another.

But on closer inspection, the wisdom of the unit's advisory council proved somewhat less in doubt.

"Yes, I'm afraid they're right, especially about my generation," said John Fitzgerald, aged 23, sporting Geldof stubble and a lanky pony-tail. "Young people've got the idea that they'll only get on in life if they're more aggressive than the next guy."

John's father, Roger, agreed with a muffled: "That's right" from behind the flower stall which the family has run for

101 years. "Two words have got forgotten," he said. "Please and thank you."

Then 31-year-old David Anthony potted up and used both words several times as he spent his weekly £2.40 on freesias for his mum.

Mrs Anthony was not the only Mancunian to benefit yesterday from the "position of being a lady", which the Social Affairs Unit defined as an historic protection for women. Rachel McAllister, speeding back to the office, said: "I just winged a bloke with my carrier and he was about to off and blind when he saw my skirt and long hair."

But Mr Anthony said: "In the tram or bus, people rush for a seat and don't care about anyone else. Yes, we are getting more rude."

As John Duffy, street-sweeper on the local beat for 25 years, trundled into view with his handcart, Roger Fitzgerald said: "I don't know what we're going to do when he retires on Saturday."

Mr Duffy was cheerfully upbeat about 1990s Britons ways with litter, saying Manchester's pavements were probably less fouled and paper-strewn than ever before. But he added: "I'm not so sure about the people."

Beef crisis sparks patriotism clash

Stephen Bates in Brussels Patrick Wintour in Rome and Michael White

THE crisis over Britain's banned beef exports last night flared into a party political clash which could turn the partisan general election into a poisonous battle over patriotism unless John Major's government can negotiate the outlines of a beef deal in the next four weeks.

As the Prime Minister's new "beef war" cabinet met for the first time and British officials started applying the veto to routine European Union business in Brussels, the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, raised the stakes for both Labour and the Tories by accusing Tony Blair of undermining the Government's efforts to get the worldwide beef ban lifted.

Mr Rifkind's attack came after he declared that the Cabinet's policy of non-cooperation was already concentrating minds wonderfully in Europe in the wake of Monday's failure to lift the partial ban on gelatin, tallow and semen - and Mr Blair had used his one-day visit to Rome to offer wary support

for the new British tactics of "pressure combined with negotiations".

"Talk of wars on Europe and all the rest is irresponsible and foolish," the Labour leader said after talks with Romano Prodi, the new Italian prime minister. "It is absolutely essential that we do all we can to ensure that the Government strategy works and we get the ban lifted."

But Mr Blair's promise not to undermine the national interest while judging the British measures step by step was not enough for Mr Rifkind. "He cannot make up his mind on such a crucial issue. That is pretty pathetic," he told reporters.

Gordon Brown called the attack proof that the Tories are electioneering instead of "attempting to undo the negotiating disasters and incompetence of Douglas Hogg" - a charge Downing Street denies. Mr Major held back sceptic demands for a tougher line until "let down" by Germany, Spain and others on Monday's vote, colleagues say, though Mr Hogg's future as agriculture minister is widely held to be limited.

More ominously, many MPs and officials suspect that

if British tactics fail to deliver the so-called framework agreement on terms and timetables for ending the ban by the end of the Florence summit - which starts a month today - the crisis will escalate out of control as Britain's veto wrecks EU business and her 14 partners slip in.

In reality, the lifting of the ban will be gradual. Mr Rifkind yesterday conceded the non-cooperation policy could last two or three months, or even longer. Privately, some officials admit that, even with good progress, parts of the ban could still be in place on election day.

In Brussels, the veto was deployed yesterday when David Bostock, the UK's deputy ambassador, became the first mandarin to go over the top in the beef war when he blocked progress on disaster co-operation at a meeting of the civil protection council.

At the meeting, Mr Bostock read a statement on Britain's position over the beef ban and then stopped agreement about co-ordinating national states' responses to international emergencies.

It could be revived later, Mr Rifkind conceded as he announced that any minister

wanting to avoid vetoing a cherished policy will have to plead with the "beef war cabinet" for an exemption. There will be a "strong presumption against exemptions," he said.

Stephen Wall, the British ambassador to the EU, also did his bit for Britain by telling the European Council that he would not be signing the long-standing insolvency convention, which co-ordinates bankruptcy laws, and that the Government will not approve a convention supporting the setting-up of Euro-pol, the cross-border police intelligence gathering unit.

The Commission and other member states reacted with sang-froid to the British disruption campaign, saying it would have little effect, and that they were used to Britain acting to block areas of co-operation.

A Commission spokesman said: "We remain serene. Clearly you cannot expect us to support actions by a member state that disrupt the working of the institutions. We advocate respect for procedures because only that way will we be able to produce a solution to the problems. It is up to each partner to shoulder its responsibilities."

Britain picks diplomatic bruiser to end deadlock in Cyprus

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

SIR DAVID HANNAY, Britain's smoothest diplomatic bruiser, is to become special representative for Cyprus. He will try to break the deadlock between Greeks and Turks - and ensure the Americans don't pull it off and take the credit.

Fearing a repeat of the way the United States stepped in and settled Bosnia at the Dayton conference, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, announced yesterday that Sir David, aged 60, was emerging from retirement to help thrash out a deal that

has eluded mediators since 1974.

"We have links with both communities on the island and through the large Cypriot community in the UK," Mr Rifkind said. "Our aim is to work closely with the two communities in the search for a negotiated settlement."

Cypriots beware: Sir David is famous for his caustic, un-diplomatic tongue. He became a legend during his five-year stint as Britain's ambassador to the United Nations, where he ticked off President Saddam Hussein during the Gulf crisis.

"Many others have tried in the past and failed to produce a solution," he said yesterday.

day. "It would be rather presumptuous to suggest that a new person could do the trick. That's not the way these international problems get solved. They're solved by perseverance, not by some magic negotiating fix."

Britain and its European Union partners want to use the talks on Cyprus's accession to the EU as a stimulus for a deal. The talks are due to start in 1998 and the hope is for a settlement, or at least real progress, so that Greek and Turkish Cypriots can join as a united federal republic.

US interest in the island, galvanised by concern about trouble between Greece and Turkey, stung EU members

into action after Richard Holbrooke, the US Bosnia mediator, accused them of "sleeping" while a crisis in the Aegean almost erupted into war between the two Nato members.

"The British don't want to leave the Americans with a completely free hand," said one diplomat. "They need to make sure they're on the scene."

No new initiative has been produced to steer Cyprus towards peace since the Turkish side rejected UN confidence-building measures a year ago. But if any outsider can hone a clever formula that fuses compromise, Sir David is the man.

There is nothing megalomaniac about Oldenburg. He's just a splendidly talented male artist with an outsize sense of often scatological humour. His sketch for a giant pair of binoculars constructed in California becomes a woman's crotch. A ski jump in Oslo is created from frozen sperm. Richard Gott on a pop art revival

Review cover story

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Give me a broom

I'll clear the bloody table.
This may not be life
But it's as near as dammit,
girls.

-JANE HOLLAND



Jane Holland, who has won the Eric Gregory Award for poets under 30, two years after she gave up professional snooker. PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Snooker's loss is poetic gain

Dan Glaister on a woman who has won a £4,000 literary prize two years after hanging up her cue

ERIC Cantona dabbles in philosophy, Albert Camus was a goalie and Jane Holland used to play professional snooker.

Seamus Heaney when she won the £4,000 Eric Gregory Award for poets under 30. Heaney won the prize in 1966. Holland, who was ranked 24th among women in world snooker before abandoning it in 1994 to concentrate on poetry, said the game had taught her "self-discipline, perseverance and patience", qualities

she now applied to her poetry. "I used to practise eight hours a day," she said yesterday.

She now devotes the time to writing. "You can't sit around waiting for the muse to descend," she said.

"From when I get up to when I go to bed I'm usually writing and reading."

Holland started to play snooker in 1989 after her husband introduced her to pool. She entered the world championship in the same year, losing in the first round, but she was hooked.

"My husband couldn't stand the competition," she said. "We got divorced."

She turned to poetry, and is happy to be free of the competitive stress of the professional snooker world.

"I read a lot of other poets, which is probably my way of being competitive. I like the fact that poetry and snooker are surreal."

"I like the dichotomy between my previous and present careers."

Her first collection, provisionally titled *The Brief History of a Disreputable Woman*, is to be published by Bloodaxe Press.

John Lanchester yesterday won the Betty Trask Award, worth £8,000, for his novel *The Debt To Pleasure*.

The award, established when the late novelist left £400,000 for novels of a "romantic or traditional, rather than experimental, nature", has attracted controversy for the explicit nature of some of the books submitted.

Graham Lord, a writer and member of the judging panel, wrote an article in the press

decrying the "sleazy, foul-mouthed and violent" nature of many of the entries.

Mr Lanchester, whose book was praised as "a sentimental and gastronomic journey through France", dismissed the outcry.

"These stories could have been written at any time in the last 150 years just by substituting the names," he said.

The award stipulates that the prize money should be used for travel or research.

"That's very welcome," said Mr Lanchester. "Otherwise you spend it on curtains."

Schizophrenic wins prize for harrowing inside story

Sarah Boseley on a writer who both gave and received psychiatric care

A SCHIZOPHRENIC woman, whose account of life in a mental hospital was described by the novelist Fay Weldon as "unputdownable", has won the Book of the Year award run by the mental health charity Mind.

Linda Hart, now on home leave from hospital in Leicestershire, was presented with a cheque for £1,000 by the health minister, John Bowis.

Her book, *Phone At Nine Just To Say You're Alive*, written in diary form, was begun, she said, "as a survival technique" when she was on a locked ward after a suicide attempt.

Ms Weldon who, with the poet Blake Morrison and the writer Michele Roberts, chose Ms Hart from a shortlist of five, called it "an extraordinary book... without bitterness and without reproach."

There were 90 entries for the literary prize.

Before her breakdown, Ms Hart had been part of a mental health team in the hospital ward where she was later admitted as a patient. She found the change from staff to patient "quite traumatic". "If it

was me today, it could be them tomorrow," she said. "Also, they felt threatened that I might be judgmental of their skills."

She was admitted to the psychiatric ward of a Leicester hospital in September 1993 after an acute schizophrenic episode. She constantly heard her dead father's voice in her head, urging her to kill herself and join him. One November night in the ward "my mind escaped my control", she said. She hanged herself with her dressing gown cord.

Guardian award

DAVID Brindle, the Guardian's social services correspondent, was named Journalist of the Year by Mind yesterday.

The judges said he had been chosen for "the breadth of his general coverage", the number of articles displaying his understanding of mental health issues, and the objectivity of his coverage of care in the community.

When she regained consciousness, she was in intensive care.

The book, published by her son, Jack Tilbury, who set up a company for the purpose, tells the story of her yearning and her efforts to get out of hospital. Finally, she made it. The last diary entry is for Monday, July 25: "And today I went back to work."

Mr Tilbury, aged 27, has just signed a national distribution deal for the book and says mainstream publishers are not interested. "I think it's a brilliant book. It's not just because she's my Mum," he said. "It really gave us an understanding of what she had been through. It brought a lot of people a lot closer."

Although she lives at home, retired now from her mental health work, Ms Hart is still the subject of an order under section 5 of the Mental Health Act. It means she cannot vote, and could be taken to hospital and given drugs at any time without her consent. Mind's legal officers believe it may be unlawful and intend to oppose it.

Phone At Nine Just To Say You're Alive, Douglas Elliot Press, £7.99, is available from bookshops or Mind: 15-19 Broadway, London E15 4BQ.

Extracts

In the following extracts from her book, Linda Hart tells of her first attack of acute schizophrenia, and then of her perceptions of the locked ward where she was placed after a suicide attempt in hospital.

THAT Wednesday evening... I found it difficult to get to sleep but finally dropped off at around midnight. I woke at 3am. Wide awake. It was still dark so I went down to the kitchen to make some tea.

As I sat at the kitchen table, drinking tea, I kept my eyes on the floor. There were spiders, cockroaches and vermin. I would suddenly catch sight of a tail, a black body, a leg, out of the corner of my eye. My stomach was filled with maggots; I was rotting. I could hear my father's voice telling me to drink bleach or use a Stanley knife to cut open my belly to let the maggots out.

I sat at the table with my feet on the chair opposite. I could smell the maggots and my decomposing flesh; I could see the infested floor



Linda Hart began writing 'as a survival technique' while on a locked ward in a mental hospital. PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

NUT seeks boycott of test results

John Carvel
Education Editor

GILLIAN Shephard, the Education Secretary, was under increasing pressure last night to abandon plans to publish the first primary school league tables based on the performance of 11-year-olds in tests which have encountered serious teething troubles.

Doug McAvo, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, urged school governors to mount a campaign of civil disobedience by refusing to hand over test results which the Government could use unfairly to besmirch their school's reputation.

The National Governors Council said it was trying to persuade Mrs Shephard to withdraw her proposals without the need for confrontation, although some of its leading members think she would be unable to mount legal action if they went ahead with a boycott.

Mr McAvo said: "If significant numbers of governing bodies decided not to return results... ministers would find it embarrassing to take action against the very people they are asking to make the education system work. Any huffing and puffing about the law would be fairly empty."

More than half a million children sat the tests in English, maths and science last week. School governors at 14,000 primary and middle schools in England have a legal responsibility to send the results to the Department for Education and Employment in July and the performance tables are due for publication in February.

Ministers in Wales decided not to join the experiment.

Mr McAvo wrote to govern-

nors asking them to challenge why Mrs Shephard changed her mind on league tables. On January 26 she said they would not be published until the tests were "fully bedded in", but on February 9 she had "every confidence the 1996 results will provide a solid basis" for tables to be compiled.

"There was no fresh evidence for her to change her mind, so the reason must have been political pressure from rightwing MPs."

"If Mrs Shephard refuses to change her mind, she is no better than the Germans and the Austrians and the others who without good reason are refusing to lift the ban on our beef. They are not doing that on the basis of any evidence, but for political reasons. It seems to me that there are good parallels between the two."

Jack Morrish, vice chairman of the National Governors Council, said: "We are not raring to go for any sort of confrontation, but we are saying this is a matter that is best resolved by the Secretary of State changing her mind."

Mrs Shephard said there was a legal obligation on heads and governors to provide the results. "I am surprised that anyone should object to the publication. I welcome the responsible attitude shown by governors. I feel sure that on reflection the profession will wish to support governing bodies."

Her decision to bring forward publication was based on evidence from Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector, in his annual report on February 5 that the performance of children aged seven to 11 was dipping. This confirmed results of last year's tests which showed that only about half reached or exceeded the standards.

Parents told to escort truants

Donald MacLeod
Education Correspondent

MAGISTRATES signalled a tougher policy against parents who allow their children to play truant in two cases yesterday.

Two mothers were ordered to escort their teenage sons to school as a condition of bail, to the delight of Lewisham education authority in London which brought the cases and is calling for a change in the law to reinforce its campaign against truancy.

For two months Simone Westlake has been escorting her son Alan, aged 13, to school as a result of an innovative use of bail conditions by Greenwich magistrates. Yesterday instead of fining her as council officials expected, Eleri Rees, the magistrate, deferred sentence and extended the order for three months. "The court needs to see if you can get into the habit of school attendance," she said after hearing Alan's record had improved to 100 per cent.

Mrs Rees then imposed an escort order on Linda Johnson, whose son Noel, aged 15, missed 89 days' schooling in the current academic year. Last year Mrs Johnson was fined for failing to ensure he attended school.

Gavin Moore, chairman of Lewisham's education committee, said the case demonstrated how effective an escort order could be. "It is ludicrous that magistrates have to resort to a legal sleight of hand using the bail

Warning signs

- IF YOUR child...
 - Never has any homework
 - Mixes with friends who are known truants, are older or have left school
 - Attempts to keep you away from sports matches or parents' evenings
 - Never brings home school reports
 - Rushes to the letterbox in the morning, to head off warnings from school
 - Has constant minor illnesses
 - Is specially interested in what times you will be home during the day

laws to make such orders, rather than the Education Act which only allows them to fine a parent. What councils need from the courts is practical help and support to get truants back to school.

The authority has 15 education officers who chase up persistent truants and send letters to every parent at the start of each school year spelling out their legal obligations.

Last year's tables for England showed that nine out of 10 absences were with permission. But it is believed that some schools massage their figures.

New awards in literacy, numeracy and information technology would help to motivate pupils who have not reached GCSE standard and provide job skills, James Falce, the Education and Employment Minister, said yesterday.

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Deal on Europol set to be first real casualty of action • Court ruling against ministry delights convicted fraudster

First beef war shots leave EU unmoved

John Palmer reports on how the British battle strategy is likely to affect Brussels

TWENTY-four hours into Britain's European Union "non-cooperation" offensive and there was little discernible concern yesterday in Brussels or other "enemy" EU capitals.

The commission, the European Parliament and the other EU governments shrugged off talk in London that Britain could bring the work of the EU to a halt.

British diplomats struck the first blows in the Government's non-cooperation campaign yesterday in Brussels. Three agreements covering different areas of improved EU co-operation in tackling natural disasters and serious accidents were blocked.

Measures to improve the single market are likely to fall foul of the campaign next week. The first veto of any real consequence will probably arise early next month when the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, and other EU justice ministers meet in Luxembourg to agree arrangements for the operation of Europol, the EU police intelligence agency.



John Major and Malcolm Rifkind after a meeting yesterday of the beef 'war cabinet'. Mr Rifkind said Britain's obstructive action was 'already biting'

Patriotic Blair avoids loose talk abroad

Patrick Wintour reports on the Labour leader's careful stance during Rome visit

BRITISH beef could not be saved in a day and Tony Blair's visit to the new European presidency in Rome yesterday did not bring an end to the war.

With Britain's crack diplomatic corps already massing in Brussels, the Labour leader was determined not to expose himself to the charge of being a British Quisling. He knew that to criticise John Major's plan to criticise the European Union — whilst abroad — would in the eyes of the Tory tabloids be equivalent to handing over D-Day plans to the enemy.

Loose talk would cost cattle. Any hint that morale on the British home front might be shaky, or the political classes divided, would only bring solace to Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Italy is now the only major European country with a centre-left government after the olive tree coalition, dominated by the PDS, the former Italian communists, managed to win power for the first time in the history of the 60-year-old republic.

The Italian press is fascinated by Mr Blair. According to Corriere della Sera, he wears classic clothes with gold buttons in the manner of Prince Charles. His friend is Rupert Murdoch and his enemy Ken Follet, the champagne socialist. Mr Blair also relies upon spin doctors — the *clinet manipolatori del pubblico*.

Mr Blair with the leader of Italy's former communists, Massimo D'Alema, at the PDS headquarters yesterday

Sheep export plea upheld

Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

THE European Court ruled yesterday that an animal export firm whose former director is a convicted fraudster can claim compensation against the Government.

Thomas Lomas's company, Hedley Thomas (Ireland) Ltd, which now employs him as a consultant, was refused licences to export sheep to Spain by the Ministry of Agriculture which argued the animals might be cruelly treated. The court ruled that the ministry's suspicions were not sufficient to refuse a licence and the decision was a restraint of trade.

Mr Lomas's company is to apply to the High Court in London for £1 million compensation. In January 1993 Mr Lomas was convicted at Maidstone crown court of double claiming for sheep exports and defrauding the Ministry of Agriculture of £300,000 while running a company as an undischarged bankrupt. He was given an 18-month jail sentence.

The European Court decided the criminal charges were irrelevant to the restraint of trade case and the ministry was unable to raise the matter. Mr Lomas, who now lives in France, said yesterday he was "delighted" with the outcome.

British officials had intervened to prevent Mr Lomas exporting sheep to Spain in October 1992 on the grounds that the slaughterhouses to which they were consigned were not up to British standards. Officials believed sheep were not being stunned properly before being killed.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture said it was aware of the background facts but was unable to bring them to the attention of the European Court. "Our lawyers are obviously considering what will happen now with the compensation claim."

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Warnings

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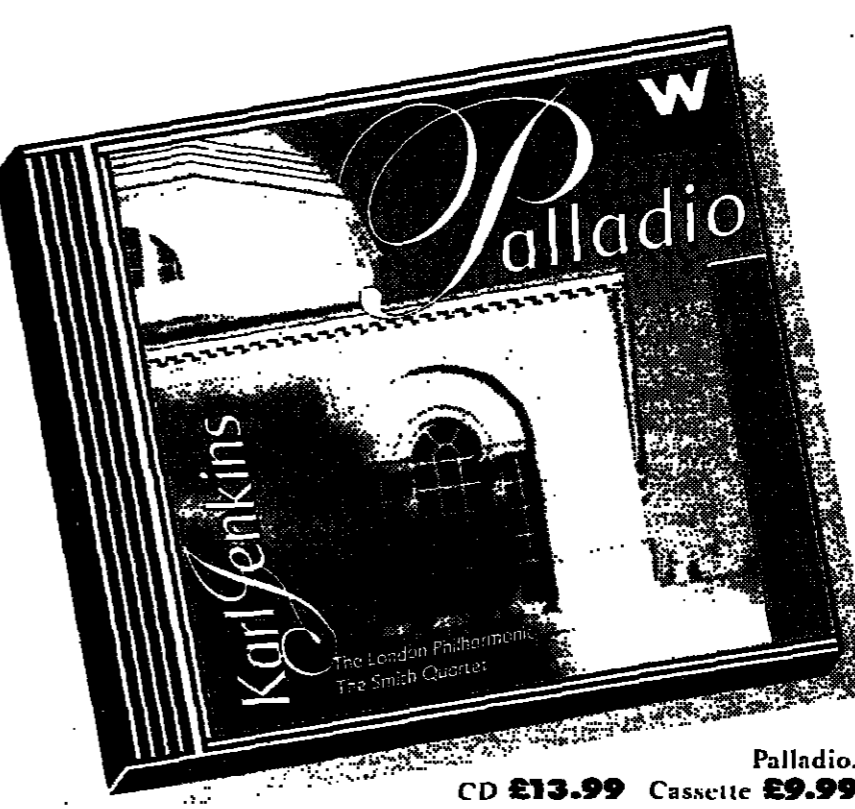
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Odd man out... Bill Clinton, above, is a mediocre golfer compared with (left to right) Kennedy (pictured with his father Joseph), Eisenhower (who played 800 rounds with president) and Roosevelt



Revealed: the inner secrets of swinging US masters

WASHINGTON dinner tables are buzzing with news of a political tell-all due to be published next month. It will reportedly reveal that John Kennedy did it surreptitiously but rather well, that Richard Nixon did it obsessively, and that Jimmy Carter did not do it at all. For once Bill Clinton's aides have little to fear. Their man is exposed only as unorthodox and painfully slow. "He comes up on his toes and lets his right elbow fly," says Peter Landau, co-author of Presidential Lies: The Illustrated History of White House Golf. "He can take five hours or more for a round."

Ever since the 27th president, William Taft, struggled to swing a club around his 25-stone girth at the beginning of this century, golf has been the unofficial presidential sport, as much a part of the White House job as welcoming foreign dignitaries or throwing out the first pitch. In their ambitious study, Mr Landau and co-author Shepherd Campbell rank America's First Golfers based on film footage, scores and anecdotal reports. Kennedy, who roundly condemned his predecessor, Dwight Eisenhower, for his time-consuming enthusiasm for the game, emerges as the finest presidential golfer of the century, landed for "a graceful, rhythmic swing" and "accuracy with his shorter irons". Gerald Ford, who earned a reputation during his otherwise undistinguished presidency for injuring innocent bystanders with unerring regularity, comes in a surprise second, chased by Eisenhower, who

famously squeezed in 800 rounds during his two White House terms. In another surprise, Franklin Roosevelt, usually remembered as a wheelchair-bound polio victim, is rated the fourth best White House golfer for his performances while serving in the Wilson administration. Both Ronald Reagan and George Bush sneak in ahead of the "enthusiastic" Mr Clinton. Mr Landau describes golf as "an 18-hole safety valve for the toughest job in the world". Only three presidents this century — Hoover, Truman and Carter —

did not swing a club in anger. Anyone seeking the true measure of a White House incumbent need look no further than his performance on the golf course, he suggests. Nixon, for instance, was dogged by a claim in the autobiography of golfer Sam Snead, that he once threw a ball out of a wooded thicket without taking an extra stroke. According to Mr Landau, Lyndon Johnson took so-called mulligans, or free shots, "as though they were part of the game," while JFK pointed out hazards to his opponents as a not entirely charitable courtesy. The verdict on Mr Clinton is mixed. On the one hand he is praised as an affable golfing companion with a powerful swing. On the other he is chided for "liberal use of mulligans" and "scruffy golf attire when out of public view".

Yeltsin to meet rebel warlord

JAMES MEEK in Moscow
A POSSIBLE breakthrough in Chechnya moved nearer last night when the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe announced that it had arranged a meeting between the Chechen rebel leader, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, and President Boris Yeltsin. Tim Goldmann, head of the OSCE delegation in Grozny, said Mr Yandarbiyev had agreed to meet the Russian leader in Moscow. "A meeting will take place in the very near future," Mr Goldmann said. "The OSCE will accompany Yandarbiyev to Moscow and will take part in part of the talks." Mr Goldmann said the meeting would take place before the first round of Russia's presidential election on June 16. Later, Mr Yeltsin's press secretary, Sergei Medvedev, confirmed that the president was ready to meet the rebel leader. "The president will guarantee the safety of Mr Yandarbiyev and the members of his delegation," Mr Medvedev said. Mr Yeltsin is desperate to stop the war in Chechnya before the presidential election. But hopes for a deal have to be set against the battle now raging between federal troops and rebels around the Chechen village of Bamut, which has led to some of the fiercest fighting and highest casualties of the war this year. Although the army said yesterday that it had retaken part of Bamut, witnesses said Russian tanks were still attacking, and the military con-

ceded that it had yet to win complete control. The Chechens claimed they had received reinforcements and fresh supplies, and were inflicting big losses on Russian forces. By their own admission, the Russians have lost almost 60 troops this week. Many generals felt after last year's brief ceasefire that they had been held back from making military advances just when the separatists were about to collapse, and will not want the same to happen again. The Yeltsin administration also has to account for the implacable opposition to any deal with the rebels of its puppet government in Grozny, led by Doku Zavgayev, the former chief of the Chechen communists. Mr Zavgayev said yesterday that any ruling coalition involving the separatists was out of the question. Even if the talks do take place, the minimum Russia will demand — a formal acknowledgement of its sovereignty over the territory, and control of the oil pipelines through Chechnya — may still be too much for the separatists to accept. It is also unclear whether Mr Yandarbiyev has authority over hardline rebel military commanders. Until yesterday, it was thought that any contacts between Mr Yeltsin and the rebels would take place in Chechnya, during a trip to Grozny which the president had said he was determined to make, against the advice of his security chiefs. Reports of possible alternative sites then began to circulate. Last week, the OSCE was asked by Russia's prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, to contact the separatists.

Top businessman held by police

JAMES MEEK on moves to distance the president from tainted associates in Russian business

THE ARREST of a businessman linked to some of the biggest Russian financial scandals of the past two years has highlighted the relationship between President Boris Yeltsin's administration and the country's murky, violent, business world. Only three weeks before the first round of the presidential election, observers have speculated that the arrest of Boris Fyodorov, head of the National Sports Foundation and chairman of the National Credit bank, may mark the beginning of an attempt by the president to purge his entourage of tainted names. In the past two days Mr Yeltsin has sacked the head of Russia's health and sanitation committee, accusing him of breaching trust and misusing federal funds, and ordered the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, to dismiss the president of the social welfare fund for similar reasons. But if these moves taken together signify a presidential clean-up attempt, there is still mystery over why Mr Fyodorov has been picked off, when more notorious figures closer to Mr Yeltsin could have been dismissed to appease the public. The businessman, who has no connection with the former rightwing cabinet minister of the same name, was spending his third day in prison outside Moscow yesterday, after being de-

Juppé's taunts spark protests

PAUL WEBSTER in Paris
TRADE UNIONS demonstrated throughout France in favour of a 35-hour week yesterday as speculation continued on a government reshuffle. The marches, the first significant joint action since last autumn's public sector strikes, coincided with forecasts that up to 25,000 civil service jobs will go in economy measures needed to join a single European currency. Most of the big unions were involved in the marches during which the prime minister, Alain Juppé, was attacked for accusing the public sector of carrying too much "bad fat". Unions took this as a provocation, recalling his tactless remarks last year when he justified a civil servants' pay freeze by saying they were lucky to have jobs when 3 million people were out of work. Yesterday's protesters included teachers who are expected to suffer from projected government savings. There were also rail and public transport stoppages which affected the Eurostar service. Nurses in Paris held their own protest. Mr Juppé has said that economies, estimated at £7 billion to £2 billion, will have to be made. The biggest cut, nearly 20 per cent, will

hit the cultural ministry, whose spending will decrease by nearly £500 million next year. During his presidential campaign a year ago, Jacques Chirac promised to increase the cultural budget. The new outcry by unions, which believe the government is deliberately putting a brake on moves towards a 35-hour week to please employers, has increased the likelihood of the third cabinet reshuffle since Mr Juppé's appointment a year ago. Worried by a potential split in government parties, he has been negotiating with political leaders who supported the Gaullist former prime minister, Edouard Balladur, in the presidential election a year ago. François Léotard, former defence minister and recently-elected president of the junior coalition partner, the UDF, has spoken strongly in support of Mr Juppé's criticism of the civil service and is expected to be offered a senior post soon. Mr Juppé will lunch with Mr Balladur today to discuss the future of Charles Pasqua, the Gaullist former interior minister, who many MPs feel should be brought back into the cabinet to sort out increasing tension in Corsica. But Mr Pasqua said the present government was doing a satisfactory job and should not be changed.

Rifkind pleads Palestinian case

IAN BLACK Diplomatic Editor
BRTAIN is urging Israel to keep open the option of a Palestinian state, and its occupation of East Jerusalem and ease harsh restrictions on self-rule areas — days before the country's crucial general election. In a wide-ranging speech on the Middle East peace process, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, last night insisted that Israel withdraw from south Lebanon and the Golan Heights once its security is guaranteed. But it was on the Palestin-

ian front that he went further: "To last, the settlement will need to respect basic Palestinian rights, not least the right to self-determination," Mr Rifkind said. "To close off the option of a state would in my view be a mistake of the first magnitude." Even Israel's Labour prime minister, Shimon Peres, has shied away from committing himself to a Palestinian state, and the Likud opposition is against it. Foreign Office officials said last night's speech, to the charity Medical Aid for Palestine, was not intended to endorse either main party in next Wednesday's election.

However, Mr Rifkind's comments on Jerusalem provoked an angry response from the Israeli embassy. "I hope nothing will be done... to prejudice the final outcome of the talks," the Foreign Secretary said. "Until the talks are over, Britain's position, like that of the international community generally, remains that Israel is in military occupation of East Jerusalem and has only *de facto* authority over West Jerusalem." Both main Israeli political parties insist that Jerusalem, whose eastern half was annexed in 1967, will remain the country's undivided capital. Palestinians want the eastern

side for their capital. Mr Rifkind claimed a special role for Britain, based on its historical involvement in the Palestine problem and its even-handedness, compared with the United States, traditionally closer to Israel, and France, which recently embarked on a high-profile pro-Arab policy. He praised the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat — due to visit London in June — and urged him to build "a true democracy". He condemned recent terrorist attacks but cautioned against "prolonged and stringent measures which go beyond what is necessary to prevent terrorism".

News in brief

French centre in Bangui ablaze
PROTESTERS denouncing French military intervention in the Central African Republic sacked and set fire to the French cultural centre in the capital Bangui yesterday, witnesses said. They said the attack occurred after French troops fired in the air to disperse several thousand demonstrators marching on the French embassy in the city centre. French officials said France had flown armoured vehicles and other

Chinese arms ring broken
Federal agents have broken up a Chinese arms smuggling ring involving two state-controlled Chinese munitions firms, in one of the biggest seizures of illegal automatic weapons in American history, US officials said. An official said arrest warrants went out on Wednesday for eight people, Americans and Chinese, in the San Francisco area. — Reuters.

Hamas appeal
Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the jailed founder of the militant Islamic group Hamas, has called on his followers to suspend attacks against Israel until peace talks between Israel and the PLO end, a Hamas official said. — Reuters.

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Arrest warrants for two top Bosnian officials accused of genocide could be issued in July, the head of the UN war crimes tribunal says

Drive against Serb leaders heats up

Reporter in Bonn and Sarajevo

AREST warrants for the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, and his military chief, Ratko Mladic, could be issued in July, the president of the United Nations war crimes tribunal covering former Yugoslavia was quoted as saying yesterday.

According to a statement by the German foreign ministry, Judge Antonio Cassese told Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, at a meeting in Bonn that the tribunal would hear evidence against the two indicted war crimes suspects in The Hague on June 27.

"Afterwards the matter of issuing an international arrest warrant would have to be decided," the statement added. "President Cassese explained it was probable that the international arrest warrant against Karadzic and Mladic would be issued on July 15."

The June 27 hearing is part of a mechanism that lets prosecutors present evidence against those charged with crimes but not arrested, with a view to obtaining a confirmation of the indictment and an international arrest warrant.

Such so-called "Rule 61" hearings do not amount to a trial in the absence of the accused. That is not allowed under the tribunal's statute.

Mr Kinkel has already

called for warrants to be issued against the two men, saying the peace process in former Yugoslavia cannot succeed unless they are brought to justice.

Mr Karadzic and Gen Mladic have been indicted twice in their absence by the tribunal. They are accused of being responsible for genocide and crimes against humanity in connection with the siege of Sarajevo and the fall last year of the UN "safe area" of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia.

In Sarajevo yesterday, John Kornblum, the United States assistant secretary of state who is trying to shore up the peace settlement in former Yugoslavia, said he had discussed the future of the two men at a four-hour meeting in Belgrade the previous day with the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic.

Mr Kornblum said he had told Mr Milosevic, patron of the Bosnian Serbs, that Washington expected both men to be removed from power and handed over to The Hague's tribunal.

He also made an unusually optimistic prediction that free and fair elections are likely to be held in Bosnia by mid-September, as prescribed in the Dayton peace pact.

Most diplomats have voiced scepticism that such a poll could be held while hardline Bosnian Serbs and Croats still hold sway in their respective areas of the country.

"The Dayton agreement does not say that we have to have a perfectly functioning

democracy in place to hold elections," Mr Kornblum said.

"The elections are to be held, if you look very carefully at the Dayton agreement, when the conditions for the holding of free and fair elections have been achieved. And I think there is every prospect those conditions will have been achieved."

Mediators have struck a deal to head off a Muslim boycott that threatened elections in the troubled Muslim-Croat city of Mostar in southern Bosnia, diplomats in Sarajevo said yesterday. It was unclear whether the elections would be held on schedule or postponed slightly.

"As a result of crash diplomacy, we have an agreement between both sides in Mostar... [which] should make it possible for the European Union administrator to announce a date for the elections soon," the mediator, Michael Steiner, said.

The elections are due on May 31 but local Muslim leaders had been unhappy that Muslims driven out of Mostar during the war would be unable to vote.

A Bosnian official who asked not to be named said there had been agreement in principle to hold elections in June.

He said all citizens of Mostar would be able to vote. Arrangements were being worked out to transport refugees back to vote or to enter them to vote in the countries where they had taken shelter.



Getting ready for normality... French peacekeeping troops remove sand bag protection at Sarajevo airport. The Dayton peace accord has allowed the authorities to begin preparations for a resumption of commercial flights into the battered city after 43 months of war. PHOTOGRAPHS BY AP/WIDEWORLD

US calls time on defiant Karadzic

Michael Dobbs explains why the state department is getting impatient, six months after Dayton

ON THE first day of the Dayton peace talks, America's secretary of state, Warren Christopher, made clear that time was just about up for Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and indicted war criminal.

Mr Christopher told reporters that the United States would not feel "comfortable" sending troops to Bosnia as long as men like Mr Karadzic were still in "command" positions.

More than six months later, Mr Karadzic continues to drive around his territory with impunity in a Mercedes, seemingly unconcerned by the presence of 60,000 Nato troops, who are under orders to arrest him if he falls into their hands and hand him to the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

Mr Karadzic's unexpected durability has raised concerns in Washington and other capitals about the credibility of planned "free and fair elections", which are scheduled to take place in Bosnia by September 14.

Washington argues that this raises questions about the effectiveness of the US-led peacekeeping mission, and about Western promises to preserve Bosnia as a unified state.

"It is outrageous," said Richard Holbrooke, the former assistant secretary of state and architect of last November's Dayton agreement. "Karadzic is challenging every political provision of Dayton, individually and in totality. If he gets away with it, it is a lead to the heart of the country [between the separatist Serbs and a Muslim-Croat federation]."

US officials say they have begun to examine a list of possible "additional measures" to take against Mr Karadzic, including steps to restrict his freedom of movement. Fearing a repetition of the 1993 fiasco in Somalia when they mounted an unsuccessful hunt for Mr Karadzic and other alleged war criminals.

The strategy of President

Clinton's administration until now has been to rely on Slobodan Milosevic, Serbia's president, to orchestrate Mr Karadzic's removal. Washington also wants Mr Milosevic to help remove the Bosnian Serb military leader, General Ratko Mladic, who has also been indicted for war crimes.

This week in Belgrade, John Kornblum, the US special envoy to the former Yugoslavia, has been reminding Mr Milosevic that Serbia and Montenegro will not be eligible for full relief from sanctions if they continue to provide sanctuary to indicted war criminals.

Mr Kornblum arrived in Belgrade on Wednesday, a day after a public appearance by Gen Mladic at a funeral in Belgrade for another indicted Bosnian Serb officer, General Djordje Djukic.

Serbian police made no effort to arrest Gen Mladic, who has been accused of ordering the massacre of up to 6,000 Muslims from the Bosnian town of Srebrenica in July last year. His presence in Belgrade drew protests from both the US and the international war crimes tribunal.

Bosnia's Muslim-led government has threatened to boycott this summer's elections unless Mr Karadzic is removed from office. Many diplomats doubt the poll can go ahead if he retains his power and influence.

"Karadzic should not be in a position to campaign in the elections," said Michael Steiner, a German diplomat responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Dayton accord. "If he is in a position to campaign, we do not think that the elections will produce a very helpful outcome."

Underscoring Serb defiance, the new Bosnian Serb minister, Gorko Kljickovic, called on Wednesday for changes in the Dayton deal, including widening the three-mile wide Posavina corridor linking Serb-held parts of eastern and northern Bosnia.

While conceding that they have lost a significant battle in their attempt to orchestrate Mr Karadzic's removal, US officials insist they have not lost the war. "This is coming to a head one way or the other," said a state department official. "There is a political dynamic taking place here that is not in Karadzic's favour." — Washington Post.

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Eric Korn on The Physics of Star Trek

Review page 7

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A devastating sentence

Mr Howard received no mercy from Lord Taylor

THE line-up could hardly have been more impressive: senior judges, distinguished lawyers, former Conservative Home Office ministers all urging the Home Secretary in yesterday's debate in the Lords to think again about his maliciously-motivated white paper on sentencing. It was the Lord Chief Justice who dominated the debate, not just because of his title, nor because this was his last speech before he retires because of cancer, but because of the merciless way he punctured Michael Howard's specious justifications for this latest turn of the prison screw. The Lord Chief Justice noted the Government's "shallow and untested figures", the switches in policy, and the "grave consequences" which this would produce for the criminal justice system. Most damning of all — because he is a judge who weighs his words carefully — was a sentence which legal students will study for decades to come: "Never in the history of our criminal law have such far reaching proposals been put forward on the strength of such flimsy and dubious evidence."

Neither the united opposition of the Conservative legal establishment — Lords Donaldson, Carr, Windlesham, Carlisle, Bealstead — nor Lord Taylor's devastating deconstruction will persuade Mr Howard. He is beyond rational persuasion. Politics, not policy, is his prime motive. Remember, it was at last year's Conservative Party conference where the main principles of the white paper were set out: tougher sentences, reduced remission and automatic life sentences for second time sex or violent offenders. A Home Secretary who has pushed up the prison population from 40,000 to 55,000 seems intent on doubling the original inmate number through the application of crude, inappropriate and ineffective American sentencing principles. No one should be in any doubt where we are heading.

Which country has the highest serious crime rate in the West? The same one that has the highest number of prisoners. America now has 1.5 million people behind bars — proportionately six times more than our current record. Who would look to America for solutions to our current crime problems? Only a man desperate to justify his own shallow bid for populist support. Ironically, he has not even won that. The Tories still remain behind Labour in public opinion polls on law and order.

We disagree with the Lord Chief Justice on only one point. Mr Howard does have the right to impose a legislative straightjacket on judicial discretion, even though he is not right to do it. Traditionally, sentencing policy was laid down by Parliament and implemented by the judiciary. It was only when Parliament began removing minimum sentences in the nineteenth century that the judiciary moved into the vacuum. The retiring Chief is right to warn that restoring certainty in sentencing through minimum sentences can only be achieved by sacrificing justice. It will, in his words, create "production line justice" which can take little or no account of the individual circumstances. Yet extenuating (or aggravating) circumstances differ as widely as criminal characters: insults, incitement, genuine grievances. More seriously, the Howard plan will not achieve its aims. It will not cut crime. As the Lord Chief Justice noted, the only result of imposing seven year prison sentences for dealing in hard drugs for a third time will be the incarceration of thousands of addicts who need to deal to pay for their habit. Sentencing policy is too serious to be left to politicians or even to judges. What is needed is a sentencing council, made up of judges, prison governors, criminologists and psychologists — but not politicians.

Bad behavioural fallacies

Right-wingers can only scratch the surface of rudeness

ROAD rage is merely the latest manifestation. Noisy neighbours, about whom complaints have trebled in the last decade and whom the House of Lords also debated yesterday, are another. Other frequently cited examples include the spread of litter in the streets and of bad language on stage and screen. To many people, the evidence that Britain has become a ruder, cruder society seems all around them. Most adults are certain that manners and behaviour have got worse in their lifetime. Many young people think their elders are stressed about nothing. Yet a succession of critics including David Selbourne, Gertrude Himmelfarb and Amitai Etzioni continue to warn that without radical changes in moral codes and personal behaviour, civic order will crumble further.

Yesterday the right-wing Social Affairs Unit added its own pack of worries to this mounting pile of anxiety. The contributors to *Gentility Recalled* have targeted a range of real and not-so-real problems: loutishness in the streets, the spread of spitting, "inappropriate" dress such as baseball caps (worn forwards as well as back), disrespectful behaviour towards the elderly, failing to act one's age, and that favourite of English men of a certain background — the decline of sportsmanship on the cricket field. It is not an intellectually impressive collection, and as an indictment of contemporary manners it is far inferior, for instance, to Mr Selbourne's *The Spirit of the Age*.

Yet there is no denying that the Social Affairs Unit is on to some genuine themes. Bad behaviour, in the broadest sense, is a real problem in contemporary society, not a phoney one. There is a need to re-examine the relations not just between generations, genders and within families but especially between strangers. Selfishness, denial of responsibility and aggression are genuine problems of the age. The language and the culture have been debased. Courtesy, deference and consideration for others *ought* to be valued not derided. Individuals *do* need to accept more responsibility for their behaviour towards others.

The trouble with the Unit's approach is that it is obsessed with proving that all these troubles can be laid at the door of progressive liberalism. Their writers — like others down the ages — constantly hark back to a supposed golden age of manners and decency which never really existed. These ones try to blame everything on feminism, multiculturalism and the wised chestnut of political correctness. There is no place in their analysis for the cult of possessive individualism, greed, the Me Generation, ruthless rights, the privatisation of public duty and order — or even for the Murdoch press. The Social Affairs Unit have raised some real questions and provided some entertaining reading, but this old-hat, nostalgic fogeyism is a trivialising way of addressing the need to build a modern civic and moral culture in Britain.

The battle of the primates

Lord Runcie's criticisms are honest, timely and to the point

IT IS not good etiquette to criticise your successor. And Lord Runcie, always the gentleman, has kept an honourably low profile for five years since he stepped down as Archbishop of Canterbury. But no serving bishop shows either the perception or the courage to take on the role of loyal opposition. A process analogous to that of the Labour Party has groomed the episcopal benches into tooting the corporate line. Disagreements are perceived as too damaging to the morale and authority of the Church and debate has been unhealthily stifled. By default, the vital task of timely criticism has fallen to Lord Runcie.

His recent comments cannot be dismissed simply as the gripes of a liberal against an evangelical, for they are much too astute and well-informed. Lord Runcie dares to say what is blindingly obvious to virtually everyone — believer and non-believer — namely that the Church's policy on homosex-

uality is "judicious". A hotch-potch of professing one standard for clergy and another for laity which translates into a practice of "don't tell, don't ask"; it has neither intellectual coherence nor pastoral compassion.

Equally welcome was Lord Runcie's honesty about Archbishop Carey's reforming zeal. The Turnbull Report represents the biggest overhaul of the central institutions of the Church in decades, but it has prompted extraordinarily little debate. Yet it represents the Thatcherisation of the one institution which was beyond her reach, introducing management concepts into a Church informed by a completely different ethic — Christianity. In admirably measured terms, Lord Runcie prophesies the price of Archbishop Carey's success. A better organised Church catering more efficiently for its believers, a holy huddle of little influence or relevance to those outside.

HELMUT KOHL DREW UP AN EMPTY CHAIR AND JOHN MAJOR LEAPT OUT OF IT...



Letters to the Editor

A splash in the gene pool

YOUR discussion of the breast-cancer gene (Wars of the genes, May 23) overlooks some critical points. The only justifiable grounds for testing women to identify the so-called cancer gene are if early detection leads to effective treatment.

Yet the test only identifies a genetic susceptibility to certain forms of inherited breast cancer which account for only 5 to 10 per cent of all breast cancers. Such a test is, therefore, irrelevant to the vast number of women who eventually develop the non-inherited forms of the disease.

Even for a woman correctly identified as at risk of the inherited form, the options provided by the test are largely spurious. She may be advised to undertake regular breast self-examination or seek a mammogram to check for early signs of the disease. But because breast cancer is sufficiently common in women in this country, shouldn't all women be advised to examine their breasts regularly?

Moreover, mammograms in women under 30, precisely those being targeted by the testers, are notoriously unreliable in detecting tumours — so increasing the frequency of mammography in this group is a pointless gesture.

Our view is that this test is a cynical development which will profit the testing compa-

nies concerned but provide no medical benefits to women. They instead will be worried willy nilly by being told they may develop a disease which they cannot prevent.

For these reasons we oppose the marketing of any genetic test which does not provide clear medical benefits. The fact that such tests can come to market unregulated simply fuels our fear that, unless adequate legislative controls are in place, commercial factors will once again ride roughshod over the needs of individuals already disadvantaged by their genes.

Julie Sheppard,
The Genetics Forum,
5-11 Worship Street,
London EC2A 2BH.

THE assumptions which appear to underpin David King's article on opposition to early signs of the disease, but the upper hand, May 23) are that increased understanding of the genetic basis of many human diseases is inherently dangerous; and that those affected by genetic disease are somehow not to be trusted to make sensible decisions about the use to which this information is to be put. Both these arguments are wrong.

Recent advances in scientific understanding now make it possible for families to make informed reproductive choices. For some, this may

result in the termination of a pregnancy where the fetus can be demonstrated to be affected by a severe disorder, but equally a test may demonstrate that the couple can expect a child free from a specific genetic disease. As science advances, so it may become possible to treat these currently incurable conditions. The potential benefits of bio-technology are enormous, and we should not turn our backs on them through fear of their misuse.

David King suggests that there is a need to prevent parents from making private decisions about whether or not to terminate a pregnancy. Quite apart from the fact that the Abortion Act does not allow termination on the grounds of minor disability, the idea of some official list of conditions, where it is acceptable to terminate, is a much more frightening one. Most pregnancies which are terminated because a genetic disease is detected are wanted pregnancies, and it is offensive to those in this difficult situation to suggest that their decisions are determined by the pursuit of an unattainable ideal, rather than by the wish to have a healthy baby.

Alastair Kent,
Director,
Genetic Interest Group,
29-35 Farringdon Road,
London EC1M 3JB.

Round three in the great Ken Livingstone-Lord Hanson bout

TO be attacked by Lord Hanson, the most rapacious figure in Britain's sorry tale of asset-stripping and industrial decline, puts me in an interesting company (Making tracks on tax, May 20). Two years ago, Hanson wrote to John Major accusing the then Treasury minister, Stephen Dorrell, of "sounding like a socialist". Dorrell's crime had been to establish an inquiry into the impact of high dividend payments on Britain's appalling low levels of investment.

Later, his investigation was wound up and he was moved to another ministry. Hanson's argument is littered with red herrings. I made no mention of central planning and have no proposals that investment in private companies should be a decision for ministers. I seek to change the system of taxation and company law so that Britain's financial institutions use the talents of their brightest and best staff to find domestic investment opportunities rather than concentrating on foreign speculative investment. Of course, Hanson is totally opposed to any such change.

Undoubtedly a shift of company profits from dividends to investments would be a blow to the City of London, large parts of which are geared up for takeover and other short-term speculative options. Britain's financial system is geared for foreign investment and against domestic investment. A move in the direction of a German or Japanese-type financial system organised to invest in do-

mestic industry — but where dividends are lower — is an essential step towards Britain's economic rebirth.

One has only to look in the financial pages to see the gross dividend yield demanded in the UK is 4.09 per cent, compared to only 1.88 per cent in Germany and 0.73 per cent in Japan. Surely Hanson is not arguing that Britain's economy is more successful than that of Japan or Germany?

Rather than answer facts like these, Hanson resorts to the old scare about a threat to the workers' pension funds, a cry that will no doubt be taken up by the Tory party and their supporters in the press. But other countries maintain comparable pension levels to the UK without the same level of dividend payments. Pension levels, as with the entire economy, depend on economic growth; this is determined by investment levels. Pensions will be safer in a country which has a high investment rate and high growth, rather than short-term profit-taking in the form of high dividend payments. Ken Livingstone MP,
Flat 2, 63 Tollington Park,
London N4 3RA.

PAUL Richards (Letters, May 22) is right in saying that Ken Livingstone will have no influence over New Labour's manifesto. I wish I could share his confidence that Teresa Gorman is equally isolated within her party. Phil Woodford,
Flat 2, 63 Tollington Park,
London N4 3RA.

A doctor diagnoses the fund

THE Audit Commission report on GP fundholding (May 22) describes large amounts of NHS money being spent for little health gain. I represent over 8,000 GPs who influence health spending regardless of their fundholding status or otherwise. We work in GP-commissioning groups in co-operation with our health authority. We get no government support.

Our national association has repeatedly called for the evaluation of fundholding (and GP commissioning) and it sees the Audit Commission report as simply a first step. Our local termination-of-pregnancy service was revamped last year. It has become user-friendly, that women who previously used the non-NHS sector now prefer this service. Rising hospi-

tal costs, a pill scare and rising abortion rates have led to a crisis. This year's budget will buy only 50 to 60 per cent of the expected demand.

Fundholding alone cannot address this issue. Only a local group that tries to represent all patients and GPs, including fundholders, stands any chance of retaining patients' respect whilst dealing with a cash crisis.

There are, for instance, 500,000 people in Enfield and Haringey. The funding gap for the service is about £200,000 — roughly the same amount paid out in management fees to any four fundholders (and their 25,000 patients). (Dr) Ron Singer,
Chair, New River GP
Commissioning Executive,
85 Tanners End Lane,
London N18 1SB.

Wimp power

IF ANYONE is talking "a lot of dangerous nonsense" about bullying it's Mike Eslea of the Sheffield Anti-Bullying Project (Letters, May 21). As someone who was bullied at school because I was a pathetic wimp, I used to dream about wreaking devastation upon my tormentors, not because I wanted to be a bully, but because I did not want to be pushed around. If Eslea could help me defend myself and earn respect, I would stop them being pathetic inadequates when they grow up.

If the weak and weedy are to become proper adults leading satisfying lives, they must be toughened up when



young, or else they will have rotten childhoods and a hopeless time as adults. Bullying will stop when kids are too tough, both physically and morally, to be pushed around.

Kevin Post,
Lucas Street,
London SE11.

Europe's war to end all wars

LISTENING to the Prime Minister outline the Government's latest tactics over the ban on British beef, one could visualise Mr Major standing at the despatch box in short trousers, with his schoolchums bellowing encouragement. "Just isn't cricket, is it? These foreign johnnies don't play fair."

An incident of this nature would have seen Palmerstone dispatch a gun boat. Churchill would have vowed to "fight them on the beaches". Even Eden sent in paratroopers. Mr Major, however, has decided to take his hat and ball home.

As we approach the 21st century, history should have taught us that unregulated, aggressive capitalism cannot be trusted to ensure the welfare of the consumer, safety from an erosion of profits. Lizzie boys who take their bats home may find that they only have themselves to play with.

Peter Robinson,
49 Westminster Road,
Morecambe, Lancs LA4 4JH.

JOHN Major's attempt to "Falklandise" the political relationship with Europe probably looked like a good idea in isolation, but I presume that the Government forgot the proximity of the forthcoming invasion of football fans. It looks like it has created an extremely dangerous situation. Mr Major's election-organ list can now add "Come on over if you think you're hard enough".

Frank Austin,
11 Alma Street,
Weston-super-Mare,
North Somerset.

ON JUNE 3 and 4 the Italian Presidency of the EU proposes to call an extraordinary agriculture council meeting. If the partial lifting of the ban on British beef still does not receive a qualified majority, but receives a simple majority, the final decision will be left to the European Commission. Since it is the commission which proposed the lifting of the ban in the first place, it is likely that it will stick to this line next month. Why then all the melodramatics from Euro-sceptics?

Terry Wynn MEP,
Rue Belliard 97-113,
1047 Brussels, Belgium.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear.

Stage call

YOUR article on RSC/staff relations at the Barbican (Unit threat as RSC seeks to quit London, May 15) includes some inaccuracies. Becht has not notified the RSC over industrial action. Last week, the RSC did not and had no intention of announcing its destination for the six months' absence from the Barbican. It has just announced that an additional residency of four weeks would take place in Plymouth. Recent productions have not disappointed in box office terms. We achieved 78 per cent capacity in 1995/96 with Shakespeare productions playing to 77 per cent capacity. It is untrue that a £70,000 copyright bill came about because performance rights had not been cleared for Les Enfants Du Paradis.

Simon Callow did not "disappear" after the press night of that production. He travelled to New York the next day to fulfil a prior engagement, but remained in daily contact. Adrian Noble, Artistic Director, Royal Shakespeare Company, Barbican Centre,
LONDON EC2Y 8BQ.

REGARDING the money earned by lawyers (May 23), a colleague tells me of one US lawyer charging for a 26-hour day: he told his client that he had just crossed two time zones.

Mark Richards,
Brunel University,
Uxbridge, Middx UB8 3PH.

July 20 1996

Diary
Matthew Norman

YET another missive arrives from our prolific correspondent Dr Julian Lewis. The Central Office radio ham has, it appears, allowed his undergarments to become dangerously intertwined once again. This time, the bate concerns false suggestions that he has lurching to the left, and now supports proportional representation. He did go to a meeting on FR, he insists, but only to slag it off. Speaking on the phone yesterday, Julian was adamant that unless the Guardian publishes that letter, it's hi ho, hi ho, off to the Press Complaints Commission we go. But I think he was only teasing. If, not you, you have to wonder whether his skin is thick enough to cope with the task of fighting a general election, Julian is, of course, contesting New Forest East in the Conservative interest, and is keen to point out that he has not been an active member of the Labour Party since the 1970s, when he launched a one-man crusade in Newham North East to save the movement from the clutches of the far left.

DOUBTS about which way the Daily Mail, and its mannerly mutilating editor Paul Dacre, will swing come the general election preceded yesterday. The front-page headline on Owen Oyston's rape conviction read: "Shaming of a socialist millionaire". Here we go again.

THE Cypriot wine waiter Taki-George (upon whom, incidentally, Tom Conti based his character in Shirley Valentine) reports a crush on a fellow Spectator columnist. She is Petronella Wyatt, issue of Sancy Squirrel man Lord (Oodrow) Wyatt and his wife Lady Verocca. In his High Ball cocktail column, the Cypriot tries to turn Patsy on by turning off her compatriots. "To Continental men, sex is an elaborate game in which the male pursues and the female seduces," he writes. "To Englishmen, sex is a task to be performed preferably alone..." Intriguing stuff... and, as so often, it is T-G's way with an anecdote that elevates his column. "I once rang her from Enlapest, and got her mother instead," he reveals.

RUMOURS that Sir Nick Lloyd may be continuing where he left off as editor of the Express by doing PR work for John Major may be exaggerated. "The friends with Tim Bell and Maurice Saatchi," says Sir Nick (whom we pray suffers no allergy to ermme), "and I'm friends with the PM too, I think... though I should perhaps not say that. One tries to help if asked, but then you don't get paid." So you have been approached, then? "Err, no, not as such. I think it's just been the normal friendly banter. I wish that Maurice or Tim would ask me... no, actually I mustn't say that. Really, the whole story isn't true."

WITH the launch party for Major, Major due last night, its author was naturally unavailable yesterday, so I was again compelled to scour the regional press for news. In Liverpool's Daily Post, he speaks of the profound influence of his father's honesty and perfectionism upon the man he calls "young John". "The words 'honest' and 'perfectionist' were not in father's vocabulary," says Terry. "It was either perfect or thrown to one side. When we were making garden gnomes, they were either right or they were thrown on the dump." The interview was clearly held before media interest in him became so intense. For Terry reports no firm plans when the interview was over. "I think a cup of tea is next on the agenda," he remarked.

ANONYMOUSLY, a reader has sent a press notice concerning the Environment Committee, which is made up of 11 backbenchers, the financial wizard Roy Thomson among them. "I think we deserve an explanation as to what this lot was up to," says the letter, and it has a point. "From April 19 to 25, the Committee will visit Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand," says the document. "No formal oral evidence will be taken during these visits."



Beware the curse of Michael Meacher

Commentary Peter Preston

IF Michael Meacher did not exist, it would be utterly necessary to invent him. For one thing, the Daily Mail needs a supposedly unreconstructed, foaming left-winger to get excited about. Whilst it's Meacher, blinking slyly like a further-education lecturer looking for skimmed milk in the tea room, the threat is self-evidently ludicrous (and will surely only be posed in power from very far away, as in Overseas Development). For another thing, Meacher gets into jocular scrapes which enhance the gaiety of the political nation. And for a final thing his latest scrape wakes a sleeping issue.

Simple fact. At the meascrapings first. At the meascrapings first. At the meascrapings first. At the meascrapings first.

market) left magazine, Red Pepper. It said that Labour would abolish the jobseekers' allowance. But alas: though Labour in government may decide to do many things, including abolition of that allowance, it has not yet so decided. There was thus a fuss, and displeasure on high. Mr Meacher could not say that he had been misquoted. The article was clear and bore his name. He needed, however, to say something. At which point Ian Willmore did the Captain Oates bit.

Willmore was a Haringsey councillor, but is currently a Meacher researcher. He was also, he avowed, the real author of the article that appeared under his boss's name. He'd got his facts about the allowance in a twist. Poor Michael had been too busy even to glance at the piece before a 15-pence stamp carried it to Red Pepper: a blameless, noble and traduced Meacher. But now lessons had been learnt and stable doors bolted. "He will be reading all his articles and speeches in future".

Some hardened Meacher watchers, it is fair to note, remain a little sceptical of this rendition. Let us take Mr Willmore's word for it, though. The feebleness

revealed is in any case quite enough to make Mr Meacher look a bit of a chump. What's rather more resonant is the way, with every passing day, that he appears to have got away with it for that reveals something about modern politics and the press that seemingly no one wants to see in continuing headlines.

When I sign my name on a cheque or letter, that means something; and Michael Howard would probably pull my toenails out if it didn't. But such mundane disciplines go by the board if I'm a politician writing a piece for publication. Some MPs — Julian Critchley, John Biffen, the word mountain called Hattersley — are proper writers who wouldn't dream of farming out their by-line. They cherish their craft. But such reverence usually evaporates at the first whiff of front-bench responsibility. Important men, from John F Kennedy on, have become too busy to write their own speeches. They employ underlings, camp followers, even some working journalists, to get their thoughts and phrases on to the Autocue. That's accepted practice, and it has swilled into newspaper articles too. Brutally, what

you, the reader, think you are getting is usually not what you're getting at all.

Articles "by Tony Blair" may normally be divided (on sentence-length tests) between Alastair Campbell and David Milliband. Articles from the supposedly great and good flow down the conveyor belt with the best and individuality of Twiglet packets. I have before me a magnificent example of the genre from the News of World entitled "Not Guilty M'Lord. Scott's cleared my government of Iraq arms smears" by John Major. They're all at it; they're all doing it, or rather not doing it. But it requires the majesty of Meacher to make the point. He supposedly didn't even have a moment to read what

Critchley, Biffen, and Hattersley are proper writers who wouldn't dream of farming out their by-line

he'd supposedly written. And here we reach what my old tutor (one of the great Rilke scholars of the century) would refer to as the "essential this-ness of the situation". Did Michael fail to scan Willmore because the custard was burning, or was the article not actually intended to be read by anyone at all? Labour front-benchers, remember, are now Campbell-sanctified when they spread the word. It's an official tactic to draw the sting of the Tory press by scattering shadow

My advice to Alastair Campbell



Bel Littlejohn

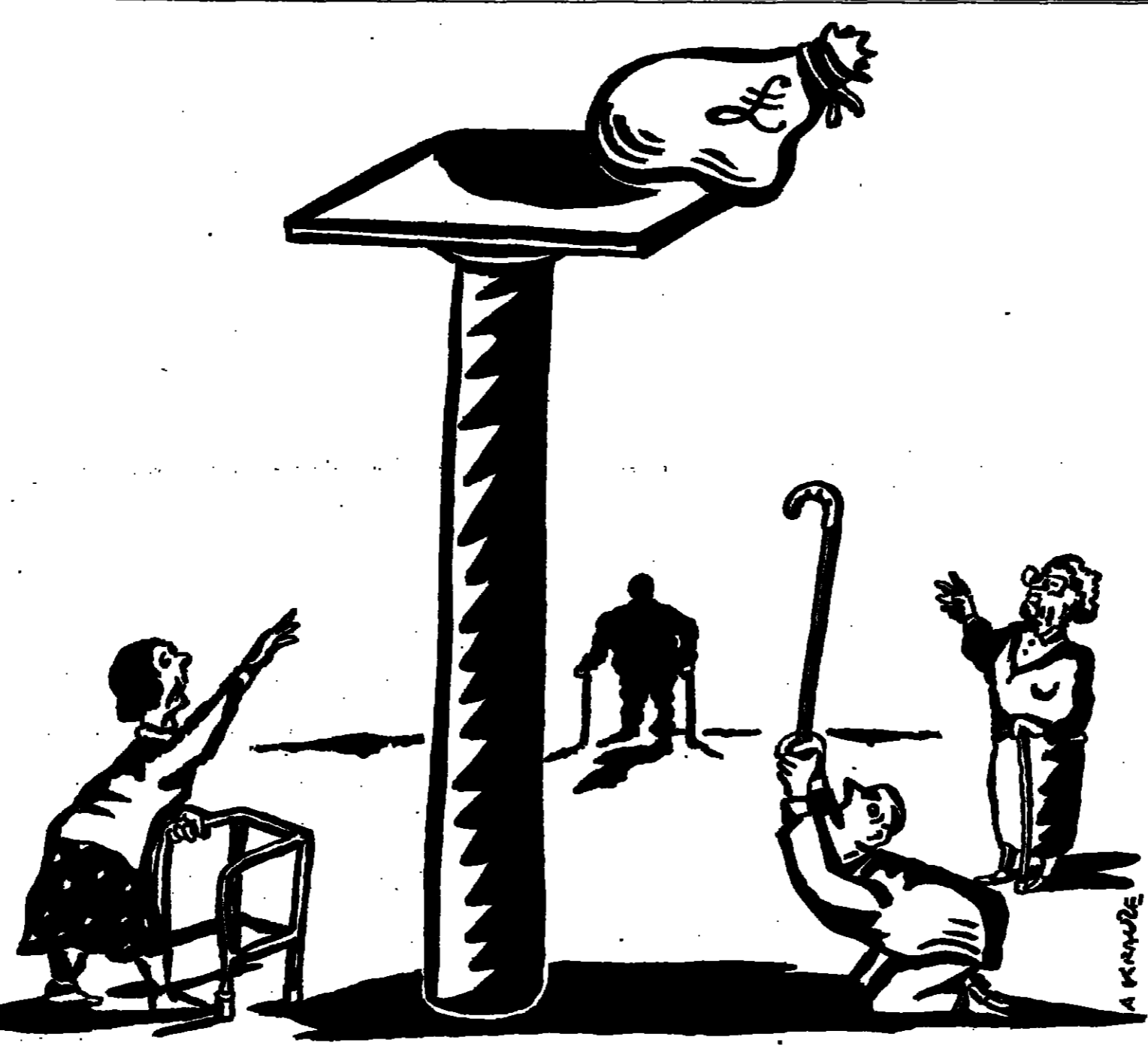
SUPPOSE it's because I care too much. I care about what's happening to our youngsters. I care about what's happening to our environment. I care about the shortlist for the Orange Prize for women's fiction. I care about who's going to win the election. I care about Peter and Brian, and whether they'll ever be able to live together once more in perfect harmony. "Nuff said, but all this caring, all this worrying over the defining issues that face us all, all this angst must eventually take its toll. Over the last few months, there have been complaints — some written behind my back, some delivered anonymously through my door — some leaked by unnamed sources close to the Leader of the Opposition" to the murkier reaches of the Tory press — that I have become (and I quote) "snappy", "overbearing", "tetchy" and "power-crazed".

who give, give, give 'til they drop, its symptoms? Irritability, general sullenness, hunger for power, an overwhelming desire to dominate, impatience with those in positions above and beneath them. Looking at Susie's perceptent — truly, I love that word — description of my symptoms, I knew immediately that I, too, was a victim of TCS. But I refused to take it lying down. As a high-profile sufferer of TCS, I aim to promote far greater awareness and understanding of the disease, so that in future people like me won't have to suffer the indignity of facing public criticism for the way we privately behave.

And so to my youngest kid, Jack. He's now 15 and a great kid, but for the past year I've been worried sick about him. There have been complaints at school that he's had at reading and writing, that his attention is always wandering, that he's a disruptive influence in class, that he's rarely seen without a tube of Unu up his nose in the corridors and that in the playground he bullies, taunts and blackmails children smaller than himself. For a long time, I felt Jack was in danger of blinding himself. He's highly intelligent and sensitive thanks to Susie. Jack and I need worry no more. Jack, it emerges after lengthy research, is suffering from an acute bout of PPD, or Perpetual Personality Disorder, poor love, brought on by "Among Blair's kitchen cabinet," wrote the political editor of the Observer last week, "the columnist and thinker Bel Littlejohn is said to be increasingly tense and irritable, rounding on anyone who answers her back. Insiders say animosity towards Littlejohn is the only area within which Brown, Mandelson, Short, Wilson and Blair are in complete agreement."

Thank, guys. Thank a bundle. You slog your bloody guts out for the good of New Labour, and this is how you're repaid. These reports have all the hallmarks of a classic Alastair Campbell vendetta, and my lawyers are at present looking into ways of curtailing them. But I'm not here to settle scores; far from it, I love Alastair, love the guy. I'm here to talk about exciting new research into the causes of medical disorders. For instance, for some time I have been caring far too much; 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to be precise, and it's taking its toll. But looking up my problem in my good friend Susie Orbach's new medical guidebook, Strength Through Weakness: Your Personal Illness Identified (HarperCollins £12.99), I notice that under C for Carcing, she identifies a strain called TCS or Total Carcing Syndrome. This, Susie reveals, particularly affects women who worry about others more than they worry about themselves, women who are naturally loving and generous and full of intellectual and emotional fizz, women

LIKE TCS, my own illness, Jack's PPD tends to afflict the highly intelligent and sensitive thanks to Susie. Jack and I need worry no more. Jack, it emerges after lengthy research, is suffering from an acute bout of PPD, or Perpetual Personality Disorder, poor love, brought on by "Among Blair's kitchen cabinet," wrote the political editor of the Observer last week, "the columnist and thinker Bel Littlejohn is said to be increasingly tense and irritable, rounding on anyone who answers her back. Insiders say animosity towards Littlejohn is the only area within which Brown, Mandelson, Short, Wilson and Blair are in complete agreement."



Mutual reality it ain't

Are we being ripped off by government and insurance companies over old-age care? Margaret Drabble wants answers — and offers the autumn of her life as a votive experiment

MOST middle-aged people are worried about health care in their old age. All political parties are well aware of this. Insurance companies are also well aware of it and are trying hard to sell us private health-care policies. The present government is encouraging them to do so. The insurance industry is very happy with Mr Dorrell's advice that "the principal responsibility for making that provision (for nursing care and social support) rests with the individual" (May 7, 1996). Well, they would be happy with it, wouldn't they? Our financial advisers and accountants are probably happy with it, too. I and many others are not. We need some explanations. Some argue that it is the public duty of those who can afford it to go private. This seems paradoxical. What happens to all those who cannot afford private insurance? Can it be true that my taking out a private policy will in some

shopping and motoring are in some essential way different from health care, as Michael Walker and other political theorists have powerfully argued. Anyway, look what happened to the building societies. They were founded on a principle of mutualism, and those of us who saved with them and took out mortgages through them believed that we were helping others to do the same. All that has now gone by the board. People join building societies, as they buy privatised utilities, in the hope of making a quick one-off profit. How can this be mutually beneficial? What happens to all that money the insurance companies are pocketing from a nervous and ageing population? It would be good to follow it through and see where it ends up. Somebody is making money out of us and some of us (how many of us?) aren't going to get it back.

If health insurance were compulsory, as it is in some countries in Europe, maybe that would be another matter, but I would still need to be satisfied that the rich and comfortable were not benefiting more from the system than the poor and unemployed. (I've given up pointing out that I've been paying National Insurance contributions for nearly 40 years, and had thought they were my investment in health care and

old age. I must have misunderstood the contract.) The Government's record on advice on personal pensions is enough to make elderly and thinning blood run colder. Thousands were misled, millions of pounds were mis-spent, and apologies (and there have been apologies) are not reassuring. This was not a good precedent. How can anyone trust this regime to give good advice about our old age? I refuse to waste my money on expensive premiums for schemes to cover me against disasters that I hope will never happen. (You can't insure against death, as such. Premature death, yes, but not death itself.)

LAST time I instead my luggage I ended up, after several phone calls and letters, with a refund of just over £5. My suitcase had been ripped to pieces, and if I hadn't bothered to take out personal insurance British Airways, which admitted liability, would have paid the full cost. If I'd had about value, as I gather some do, I could have made a profit. What kind of system is this? Why do we let ourselves be conned? Will Hutton recently challenged novelists to follow in Dickens's footsteps and expose the corporate corruptions and amalgamations of

our times. I'd like someone to do this for the insurance industry. I'm not up to it because I'm as I may, I simply can't follow what would happen to the money that I am daily advised, in my own best interests, to pay out to protect myself. But I will do the best I can. I offer myself as a living specimen of the uninsured, reasonably healthy, late-middle-aged human and you can watch what happens to me as I decline. You can tag me if you like. And if I end up in the dustbin instead of in a nice comfortable retirement home, well, so be it. At least I'll serve as a warning. I reserve the right to try to make money out of my misery by writing about it, an option not open to most, and one that will not be open to me when I've developed Alzheimer's.

But I won't cheat. Not unless I'm desperate. I won't cheat in advance. (And when you're desperate, is ill, they won't accept your premium anyway.) Of course, I'd like to be saved from these extreme measures by a sound and universal policy on care in our old age. I'd like to end my days in comfort, and to be able to prepare for this with clear conscience. But until I am convinced that I am protecting others by paying to protect myself, I'll take the risk of relying on the state.

More women are victims of INTESTACY than DIVORCE

A woman, on average, lives longer than a man. So she is more likely to have to face the difficulties of intestacy — the legal term for being left in a mess because her husband didn't make a Will.

Many men assume that, on their death, all their own will automatically go to their wives. This isn't so. When a man dies intestate, not just his wife but brothers, sisters and even cousins may have a claim on what he owned.

His widow may have to sell the house to pay off his relations. None of this need happen if he makes a will. Yet seven out of ten people fail to take this simple step.

Now, as a service to the public, WWF UK (World Wide Fund For Nature) has produced its own plain language guide to making a will. It explains:

- why everyone needs to make a will
 - how to go about it
 - and how to minimise tax liability on what you leave behind.
- Don't leave it to chance. Give yourself the peace of mind of knowing your loved ones are properly provided for.
- Send or phone for our FREE guide to making a Will, today.



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10 OBITUARIES

Patrick Cargill



Appearing in the Blood Donor as the perfect foil for Tony Hancock heralded Cargill's rise as a TV star in his own right

Straight to the comedy

WHEN the actor Patrick Cargill, who died yesterday in his sleep at the age of 77, was making A Countess From Hong Kong he invited Charlie Chaplin...



Blood and tears... Cargill as the long-suffering doctor with Hancock's reluctant donor

1969 directing Dorothy Tutin in Play On Love in which he also appeared. He had his writing successes. He wrote an episode of one TV series in which he appeared, Top Secret...

CARGILL made several appearances in BBC-TV's Hancock's Half Hour, but it was as the nonchalant doctor in the classic 1961 Blood Donor that he will be remembered...

Later he became a director, in 1969 directing Dorothy Tutin in Play On Love in which he also appeared.

who got into an argument with him about a parking space defused a sullen confrontation by addressing him civilly by name, thus signifying that he recognised him. Cargill became content to park his Bentley elsewhere.

Later his advice was sought when he played the five-times married hero of the less successful More Wives of Patrick series. As a lifelong bachelor, he was in no position to respond very convincingly to enquirers about the domestic problems arising in either series.

In later years, he worked mainly on tour overseas in a company called British Playhouse, run with BA help by the comedian and

and his work, and I took to him immediately. At the end of the war the Embassy Theatre at Swiss Cottage in north London reopened and Patrick and I were both given contracts. I am not even sure that we appeared together on stage at the Embassy but it was part of the working process by which we became lifelong friends.

Patrick played a lot of comedy, but he was a very good straight actor, and a man whose heart remained in the theatre. He was an actor with whom one felt completely secure on stage.

His fame of course came through Father Dear Father, and it was Patrick who asked for me to be cast. My role was initially for one episode - but we went on from there, and later performed together back on the stage. He is gone, but warmth, friendship, and his laugh persist. I loved him.

Patrick Cargill, actor, born June 3, 1918; died May 23, 1996

Vera Chapman

Fantastic voyager

VERA Chapman, who has died aged 99, started her writing career as a writer in 1975. Her first book, The Green Knight, was published when she was 77.

I had first met her seven years earlier, in London's fantasy and science-fiction bookshop, Dark They Were And Golden Eyed, the forerunner of Forbidden Planet. Vera, was known to her friends as Belladonna Took - the mother of Bilbo Baggins in J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord Of The Rings - and the name suited her admirably. The Tooks were an adventurous lot, born organisers and leaders.

Vera Chapman had long delighted creating tales for her children and grandchildren and encouraged by Tolkien Society members, including Tolkien himself, she produced a sequence of Arthurian stories. The Green Knight, The King's Daughter and King Arthur's Daughter were published in Britain in the mid-1970s, but as children's books missed their primary audience, it was not until their 1978 American and British paperback publication as a single volume, The Three Damosels, that they found their true readership.

Vera Chapman's books may be regarded as the finest feminist Arthurian fantasies, seven years ahead of Marion Bradley's The Mists of Avalon. The first two novels took the well known Arthurian legends of Gawain and the Green Knight and Gareth and the Lady Lyonesse and explored the world of chivalry and adventure through the eyes of three young women, Vivian, Lynette and Ursulet. The Green Knight was included by the National Book League amongst its children's books of the year. The King's Damosel has been made into a Warner Bros animated feature film for 1997 release.

fourth Arthurian novel, The Enchantress, which crosses the lives of Morgan le Fay and her sisters. While extracts have appeared the book remains unpublished.

Her other novels include A Blooded The Birdman - about Britain's first aeronaut and founder of Bath - a saucy retelling of Chaucer's The Wife Of Bath and two children's books, Julia And Julia and Mivraty And The Alchemist.

"Although I always meant to write, I have had so many other things to do," she explained her late start. She was born Ivy May Fogarty, an architect's daughter, in Bournemouth, and in 1919 was one of the first women to be granted full membership of Oxford University. She graduated in 1941 and three years later married



Chapman... Tolkien fan

the reverend Charles Chapman. They started married life in Portuguese East Africa in the mid-1930s, but as a missionary, she as a teacher but after a year they returned to England. Her husband died in the late 1930s of an ailment contracted in Africa. After the second world war she became a student welfare officer at Colonial Office civil servant, retiring in 1953.

Vera Chapman, writer, born May 7, 1896; died May 14, 1996

Jack Baines

Impression of the peaks

MOUNTAINERING, a publisher once told me, cancelling a contract, "is a minority interest which we can no longer justify continuing to publish". I played this to Jack Baines, who has died aged 97, "Good thing," he rasped back. "Let's hope it continues like that till there's a minority of one - the Ernest Press!"

The Press, co-founded by Jack and Peter Hodgkiss, was a phenomenon within the book-hungry international climbing community. In its 11-year existence the shoe-string outfit built up an indispensable list of original and reprinted mountain writing which included Dave Cook's bicycle-climbing grand tour to India, Steve Dean's biography of Colin Kirkus, and three winners of mountaineering literature's most prestigious prize, the Boardman Tasker Award.

Jack was born in Preston, gravitated to the Lake District's hills in his early teens, and became a weekend habitué of Langdale's Wall End Barn at a time when that establishment was a byword for testosterone-fueled ancillary activities of the climbing fraternity: rough games, fast

bikes, drinking, fighting. One pre-Christmas weekend Jack arranged to meet his three main companions over the holiday to climb on Ben Nevis. His father forbade him to go. His three friends were killed in an avalanche. The incident, and reports of the recovery of their bodies, fired Jack with the desire to become a mountain rescuer, and the best way he saw to that end was through the Royal Air Force.

He joined as a general fitter in 1956 and eventually he was sent to Hong Kong, where there were sea-cliffs to climb. From there he mounted an expedition to Carstensz Pyramid in Papua New Guinea - Australia's highest peak - of which he and the Cambridge mountaineer Dick Islerwood made the second ascent by a difficult new route. Back in Britain Jack was posted successively to RAF bases at Leuchars, Kinross and Valley, in each of which he figured prominently in the rescue teams, rising to team leader at the latter before he retired, as a flight sergeant, in 1978.

The following year he was awarded the British Empire Medal for his services to mountain rescue. He then brought the same

organisational zeal and tenacious pursuit of quality to his second career as a bookseller and publisher. Having settled during his time at Valley in Anglesey, he and his wife Pat opened a business there, Anglesey Books, which specialising in mountaineering literature. He soon established himself as one of the top three dealers in the country, indefatigably pursuing rare titles and charging - relatively - reasonable prices.

It was a small step to publishing his own titles: "I'd gone up to Glasgow to buy some books from Peter Hodgkiss, who prints all the Scottish guidebooks, and we got talking. This was in October 1984, and we chatted on for an hour or two about the titles we'd like to see re-published. The big question was how much would it cost. Peter said it would be £2,000 for Kirkus's Twenty Years on Ben Nevis. I put in a thousand, he did the same, and off we went."

I doubt if Jack made much money from the books he put into circulation, but if a thing was worth doing, if it spoke for and to the community of which he was a part, he'd back it, even when bigger publishing houses wouldn't

consider it. In doing so, he gained enormous goodwill. Stocky, abrasive, with a mop of grey hair and bags under his eyes, he was entirely ruthless in bargaining. I lost most of my library to him at lean times over the years. He had a serviceman's wit, treading the finest of lines between mischief and malice, and a sharp eye for character and its weaknesses. On maybe the last rock-climb he ever did, Kirkus's Marble Slab on a bitter November day two or three years ago, I remember his zest for the conflict, his exultation. Thereafter, he was never quite the same. The sudden onset of rheumatoid arthritis restricted him and made him miserable: the retreat from his word in Thatcher's Britain baffled him.

But he believed in the worth of his project. He brought it to reality. A flight of Wessex helicopters hovered over his funeral. He's remembered by many with gratitude.

Jim Perrin John ("Jack") Baines, born November 25, 1938; died May 13, 1996



Jack Baines... talking the step into publishing

Rebecca Livingston

REBECCA Livingston, who has died aged 93, was part of the last 30 years' counter-history, writes Richard Cabut. A Gloucester magistrate's daughter, she was drawn to punk and London in the mid-seventies. As Pinki - reflecting her hair colour - she was politicised by the Kings Cross squatting scene, and humanised by encounters with violence and drug-based death.

In 1981 she was a founder of the Greenham Peace Camp and was there for four years. On one occasion, soldiers were faced with a hopping Pinki and her colleagues dressed as an Easter bunnies; on another, a ballist kicking Pinki in the stomach was

caught in Biban Kidron's film Curry Greens in Home. She was five months pregnant, and bled in a police station for five hours before a doctor was called. The child, Sky, survived. Later she co-founded the Avebury Women's Festival, and helped organise the 1983 Stop The City demonstration, the anti-poll tax and the anti-Criminal Justice Bill campaigns.

In 1985 she changed her name to Tanih and began to study anthropology - concentrating on the Sumerian civilisation - and international law. Involved in the initial planning of the Newbury campaign, failing health prevented her from attending.

Birthdays

Stanley Baxter, comedian, 88; Eric Cantona, footballer, 30; Bob Dylan, singer, 66; Kathleen Hale, children's author and illustrator, 98; Dame Joan Hammond, soprano, 85; Liz McColgan, athlete, 32; Steven Norris, MP, minister of state for Transport, 51; Luke Rittner, former secretary-general, Arts Council, 49; Archie Shepp, jazz musician, composer, 69; Jeremy Tregrown, biographer, former editor TLS, 50; William Trevor, writer, 66; Arnold Wesker, playwright, 64.

Death Notices

SADLY, Brian Matthews passed away suddenly May 23rd 1996. He was a loving father to Carolyn and Kevin. A loving father-in-law and grandfather. Funeral service to be held on Friday May 24th at St. Andrew's Church at 11.30am followed by interment in Beaulieu Cemetery. Family flowers only by request but heavy contributions to Friends of Beaulieu Cemetery, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Acknowledgments

Grateful thanks to Sacred Heart and St. Mary's for their help in response to prayer. Publication permitted.

For to place your announcement telephone 0171 733 4667. Fax 0171 733 4129.

Jackdaw



Prime pigs

BETWEEN stints as prime minister, Winston Churchill retired to a country farm, where he was fond of talking walks with his grandson. He especially liked pigs. His grandson remembered in a recent television interview. One day the elder Churchill stopped to stroke the pigs' backs with the end of his walking stick. "A cat looks down upon a man, and a dog looks up to a man," the Nobel prize-winner confided to his grandson. "But a pig will look a man in the eye and see his equal."

Pennsylvania State University, intend to find out whether Churchill was right. In a pig-nutshell, Curtis wants to know what swine know, and more.

"In particular, we want to know how the animals feel, not how a human being might think they feel," Curtis says. "And we have every reason to believe that they don't see the world as we see the world." Curtis plans to explore what goes on in a pig's mind eye, using technology already established for the study of the mental capacities of primates, including teenagers: video games. Of course, we can easily operate joysticks; Curtis intends to modify technology so that pigs, using their snouts, can interact with videos. (Because pigs are notoriously shortsighted, a choice of glasses, contacts or radial keratotomy needs to be made.)

His ultimate dream is to determine the behavioral contexts of their individual yelps: "I would like to see the day when we could use synthesized calls from computers to engage in conversations with them in their own language."

"If we could have the pigs themselves participate on the team that's designing the piece of equipment or the facility that they're living in, that would be great," Curtis says. But what if the communication we get is "Porkers of the World Unite?"

Do not fear Technophobia can be treated. In serious cases, a combination of drugs-of-your-choice therapy and pop psychology can be used to help "think" your way to freedom from fear. This can be a gradual process, so you may have to repeat these steps innumerable times, until you get it right. Self-help plan 1. Resolutely decide to over-

come your phobia and face up to your irrational fears. 2. Set a date to begin. Tomorrow... 3. List what you want to achieve. Start with something modest, for example: "I will walk into the room." 4. Write down words of encouragement on prompt cards. "My modem is supposed to make funny beeping noises and have flashing red lights. This is perfectly normal. It is not on fire. It will not explode." 5. Desensitise yourself by imagining that you're confronting your phobia. Keep thinking about using the PC after 9pm when the technical support lines have closed, until this ceases to terrify you. 6. Make a timetable for carrying out each confrontation session. Start off with something not too difficult. Right-click the mouse button while using Netscape Navigator.

Ooh - what's that on your screen? Haven't seen that before. "This program has performed an illegal function..." "Leave the room quickly and phone the police." 7. Note your progress by ringing your Mum and telling her what you've achieved at the end of each session. net gives advice for nervous surfers. Pity the Unibomber does not subscribe.

Empty pleasure

Those of us who get pleasure from football are not in any way surprised at its great popularity as a collective entertainment. But there are many who do not understand it and even criticise it. They see it as deplorable because, they say, football alienates and impoverishes the masses - distracting them from important issues. Those who think like this forget that what characterises entertainment, however intense and absorbing (and a good game of football is enormously intense and absorbing), is that it is ephemeral, non-transcendent, innocu-

ously. An experience where the effect disappears at the same time as the cause. Sport for those who enjoy it, is the love of form, a spectacle that does not transcend the physical, the sensory, the instant emotion: a spectacle that, unlike a book or a play, scarcely leaves a trace in the memory and does not enrich or impoverish knowledge. This is its appeal: it is exciting and empty.

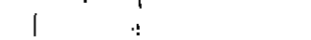
Gas guzzlers

RUSTY petrol-driven lawn mowers are being snapped up by the aerospace companies and other businesses around Los Angeles. Under new regulations, companies can buy up secondhand garden equipment to earn clean-air "credits", and so avoid fines should their own emissions exceed pollution limits. The aim of the plan is to speed up the replacement of old gas-guzzling garden machines by making them a valuable commodity. "The credit is sort of a pollution eurodollar," explains Sam Atwood of the South Coast Air Quality Management

District. "Businesses can trade these credits, or use them to make sure they meet emissions goals." Buyers win the credit only if they verify that the old machines have been destroyed. Officials hope that the programme will dispose of many of the estimated 1.7 million old mowers, leaf blowers, chain saws and other garden tools now in use around Los Angeles.

This ageing fleet belches out 22 tonnes of smog-forming chemicals a day. The gas is produced by all the aircraft that fly through the five airports in the area. Since last August, all small petrol motors used in California have had to meet much higher emission standards. The New Scientist reveals the real polluters. Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171 733 4566; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 115 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Emily Sheffield

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Finance Guardian

Unloved C&W soldiers on

Nicholas Bannister
Technology Editor

CABLE & Wireless, Britain's second largest telecoms group, failed to dispel City scepticism about its future despite reporting record profits and an increased dividend yesterday.

The group's full-year results for 1995-96, coming just a month after the collapse of ambitious plans to create a £35 billion world-class communications group through a merger with British Telecom, left the shares 21p lower at 439p.

Pre-tax profits rose 89 per cent to £1.31 billion on turnover up 7 per cent at £5.52 billion. However, the profit rise was only 10 per cent after exceptional items were excluded. Shareholders are to get a 10 per cent increase in dividend.

Acting chief executive Rod Olsen said: "We have outperformed the FTSE index on earnings and dividends for the past 15 years and even more so during the past five years."

Analysts attributed the City's reaction to the results to uncertainty about the strategic direction of the group under a new chief executive and to a related realisation that the group would remain an independent entity.

Chairman Brian Smith said that C&W was probably bid-proof following the collapse of the BT merger talks.

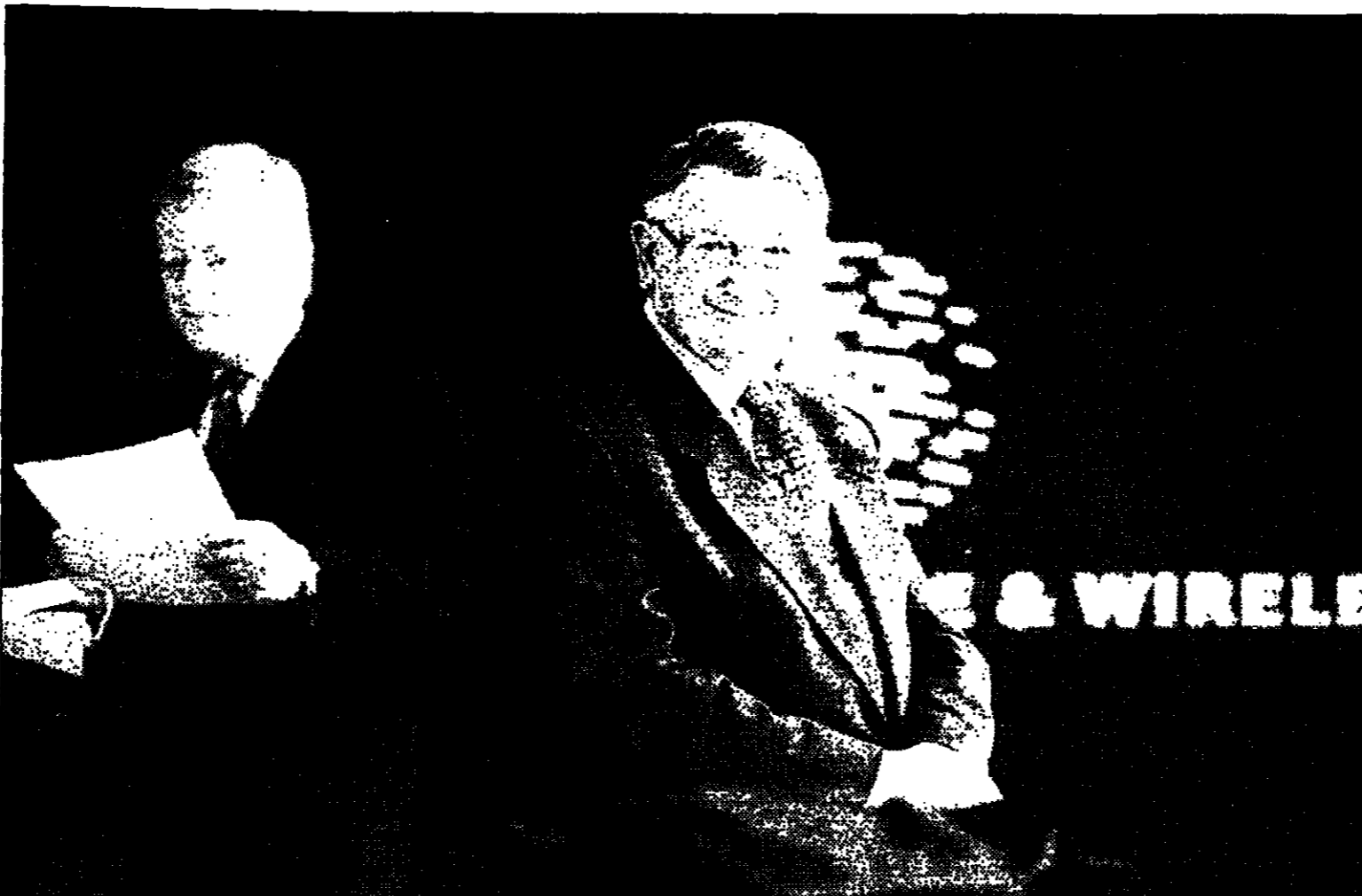
He said the group's 58 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom — its main profit centre — was not for sale but added that he would talk to the Chinese government if it wanted to take a stake.

The company confirmed that it was having talks with Stet, Italy's state-owned telecom group. But Mr Olsen said that talk of a deal was premature.

Stet was its preferred partner in Italy, because of the scale and broad range of its activities, he said.

He said the group was trying to strengthen its position in three areas — Europe, Asia and the US. It already had partners in France and Germany and was seeking one in Spain.

It had established bridgeheads in Singapore and in Beijing, and expected to do a



Going it alone... Chairman Brian Smith sees Cable & Wireless as probably bid-proof after collapse of merger talks with BT. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

number of deals in the US. Dick Brown, the American telecom executive due to take over as C&W's chief executive, is expected to spearhead the expansion in the US.

Mercury Communications, the group's 80 per cent owned UK telecom company, lifted operating profit by 14 per cent to £281 million on turnover 3 per cent ahead at £1.69 billion. The improvement stems from the restructuring programme started 18 months ago.

Peter Howell-Davies, its chief executive, said employee numbers, now down to 7,500, were unlikely to change greatly during the coming year though resources may be switched, particularly into improving the company's quality of service.

Mercury was having prob-

lems negotiating a number of portability agreements with BT which allows customers to hang on to their telephone number when switching telephone companies.

The situation underlined the need for the industry regulator to have powers to deal with anti-competitive behaviour, he added.

During the year Mercury's residential customers declined by 2 per cent to 740,000 mainly because the company had weeded out customers who were poor payers. Overall, business and residential call volume rose by 13 per cent.

The restructuring led to net cost savings last year of £52 million and is expected to result in a further £20 million this year.

Mercury seeks a one-to-one with cable firms

MERCURY Communications wants to establish closer ties with Bell Cablemedia, possibly leading to a merger, writes Nicholas Bannister.

Chief executive Peter Howell-Davies said yesterday that a priority was to build closer links with the cable companies who already use Mercury for about 80 per cent of their long distance and international telephone traffic.

Such a link with Bell Cablemedia made sense given the group floated last year. Mr Howell-Davies said Bell Canada was playing an active part in Mercury's development. "We have not

leveraged the opportunity to work with them as much as I would have liked in the past."

He also wanted closer links with Vebacom, C&W's joint venture with the German utility Veba.

Mr Howell-Davies took over at Mercury last year after Duncan Lewis, the man brought in to sort out the company's problems, resigned because of the lack of direction at C&W.

Mr Lewis's resignation focused public attention on the boardroom row at C&W which led to the departure of chairman Lord Young and chief executive James Ross.

Moore's family revises strategy

Martin Halsall

DIVISIONS among the wealthy Moore's family — which controls Britain's largest private company, the Littlewoods retail chain — resurfaced yesterday as it approved a revised plan for the firm's development in the face of the National Lottery's success.

A brief statement issued after the company's annual meeting — held behind closed doors in Liverpool — said that James Ross, the former Cable & Wireless director, was "overwhelmingly endorsed" as the new chairman responsible for implementing the new strategy.

Mr Ross was sacked from C&W after boardroom conflict, replaced Leonard van Geest, Littlewoods' chairman for six years, who earlier "agreed" to step down from his £225,000 post.

Mr van Geest was yesterday thanked by the board for his "significant contribution" during a challenging period for the group — which saw the grandchildren of the firm's founder, Donald and Alexis Moore, push for the takeover plans.

Yesterday's 45 minute meeting agreed revised Articles of Association "as part of the ongoing process to bring the group's corporate governance into line with best practice".

Mr Ross said the shareholders' confidence in him and the new governance arrangements provided a "clear mandate" for the revised strategy.

Nuclear sale blow as £700m cut from value

Simon Beavis and Chris Barrie

THE Government's official advisers on the sale of British Energy have had to issue warnings of threats to the company's value ahead of July's privatisation of the nuclear industry.

In a highly unusual move, BZW has slashed estimates of the industry's worth by at least £700 million after repeated criticism of an optimistic assessment that drew flak from the City and the industry.

With the Government poised to unveil its marketing campaign for British Energy next week, BZW is now saying that the industry's likely flotation value will be between £1.7 billion and £2.1 billion, compared with £2.4 billion to £2.8 billion two months ago.

Trying to gloss over the revision, BZW claims that its latest estimates are in line with the earlier forecast once

a debt injection into British Energy of nearly £700 million is taken into account. Close reading of the original BZW document shows the broker made its first estimate "excluding any debt that may be injected".

BZW also warns that a temporary collapse in wholesale electricity prices in the so-called pool from 2.4p to 2p per kilowatt-hour would wipe £750 million off the value of British Energy.

Originally, BZW had argued that pool prices were likely to stay at their present level and this, in part, allowed it to put such a high price on British Energy. Although it continues to stick to this, it acknowledges that other generating companies say there will be a price collapse.

In a further admission of widespread unease in the City about the sale of British Energy, the Government has denied that it will give a dividend down to guarantee a first year payout, but it is understood that this is still under consideration.

Sooty is sold on showbiz bigtime

ROGER COWE on a Blackpool glove puppet's 48-year career

SOOTY, who cost just 75p (37.5p) nearly half a century ago, is to join the list of children's characters hitting the big time after being sold yesterday for over £1 million by Matthew Corbett, son of the bear's inventor.

The buyer of the television puppet, merchant bank Guinness Mahon, plans to invest £300,000 in the character to create the kind of business which now surrounds Thomas the Tank Engine.

Noddy and other Enid Blyton characters were recently sold for £14 million to the Procadere, which has ambitious plans to exploit them in books, videos, toys and events.

Sooty was already built up sales of £1 million a year from toys and tricks, and is licensed to stores such as Marks & Spencer, which sells Sooty cakes.

Mr Corbett said yesterday he had not been able to put enough money into Sooty to

make him a merchandise star.

A spokesman for Guinness Mahon, which is backing the management team in The Global Rights Development Fund, said the character would be updated and exploited in different formats and territories. There are already plans for TV series in Japan and the US.

Mr Corbett will remain as a consultant until he retires when he reaches 50 in two years' time. With the kind of puns which could grace a Sooty TV script he quipped: "I have worked hard in glove with Sooty for the past 20 years but now it is time for him to stand on his own two feet. My wife Sally and I are delighted with the deal and Sooty is as happy as a bear with a jar of honey."

Sooty first became a TV star in 1956 after his first owner, Harry Corbett, was spotted by a BBC talent scout. Mr Corbett was a part-time puppeteer who bought the bear in Blackpool in 1948 to amuse his children.

His son Matthew took over in 1977 and the show moved to ITV. Matthew said yesterday that his own children — a rock musician, a trainee teacher and a would-be doctor — did not want to take over.



Sooty, left, and his 'consultant' PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

Notebook

Election winners in short supply



Edited by Alex Brummer

WHICHEVER way you cut it, the British economy is not performing in the way the Chancellor forecast in his November Budget. Instead of the predicted 3 per cent growth, which would have delivered a better outcome for public borrowing, the CBI is plumping for 3 per cent, which is where Kenneth Clarke's summer forecast is likely to come out.

As the first quarter gross domestic product data shows the real problem for the economy is the manufacturing sector which has been hindered by slow growth in Europe, the build-up of stocks and the miserable capital spending which comes with gloomy prospects.

Looking ahead, the CBI seems to think that manufacturing output will continue to be sluggish at around 1 per cent this year, against the 1.7 per cent it forecast in February.

The saving grace for the Government is that the consumer sector, which was so constrained during the early part of this upswing in the economic cycle, is now looking healthier. The first quarter GDP data show spending to have been more buoyant in the first quarter than at any time in the last two years, and that was before the April tax cut and the most recent reductions in mortgage rates started to come through.

Nevertheless, this is not the consumer boom which many analysts see as the real danger to stability in the economy. Retail sales in April were below expectations, but the annual rate of increase is still in the order of 2.2 per cent. The April figures were less strong than might have been hoped because of setback in household goods. But the improvement in the housing sector, together with the healthy revival reported in home furnishings at Marks & Spencer, suggests that this is not too much to worry about.

Where there is room for concern is the impact of slower growth on the PSBR, already battered by tax shortfalls and the cost of the benefit crisis. As the CBI observes in its new forecast, the room for tax cuts appears to be increasingly limited. It suggests that there is only safely room for a giveaway of around £2 billion. This is hardly an election winning number.

At first sight, the group's 59 per cent profit rise looks stunning, though when exceptional items are stripped out the rise is a more modest 10 per cent.

But Hongkong Telecom continues to grow, the restructuring of Mercury Communications is bearing fruit, and some associated ventures are moving into the black.

Gearing is up, reflecting the Vebacom deal in Germany, but is expected to fall during the current year, while head office costs have been halved over the past three years.

However, there will still be plenty for the new chief executive to get his teeth into. Mercury still has a long way to go, both in terms of efficiency and growth.

Further afield, success in Europe will depend upon picking the right partners, while expansion in the Far East will depend upon steering Hongkong Telecom through the colony's transition to Chinese rule without checking new developments or partnerships elsewhere in the region.

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There are two problems, however. First, firms have not had much time to get used to court, thus encouraging litigants who can be fairly sure of an out-of-court settlement. Second, auditors and others would have to do a better service in exchange for better protection, and that is far from guaranteed.

Telecom legacy

DICK Brown, the American telecom executive soon to take the helm at Cable & Wireless, will find that the financial housekeeping has been well done, despite all the distractions of the putative merger with British Telecom.

Magellan chief quits as he sails into poor-return storm

Mark Tran in New York

JEFFREY VINIK, the 28 million-a-year manager of Fidelity Magellan, resigned yesterday from the world's largest mutual fund amid criticism of its lacklustre returns this year.

Mr Vinik was also embroiled in controversy recently for making upbeat comments on companies at the time his \$56 billion (£37 billion) fund was selling those shares.

His resignation caps months of upheaval at Fidelity, the colossus of the mutual fund industry with \$400 billion in assets or 19 per cent of the \$3,000 billion Americans have invested in mutual funds.

In March, Fidelity reshuffled portfolio managers at 26 of its 239 funds, but left Mr Vinik in charge of

its flagship Magellan fund. Robert Stansky, who like Mr Vinik worked under mutual fund legend and former Magellan manager, Peter Lynch, will now run Magellan. He takes over amid widespread criticism that Magellan has become too big and unwieldy.

Some analysts have urged Fidelity to either close Magellan to new investors or take the more radical step of breaking it up into four or five separate funds.

But Magellan is hugely profitable for Fidelity despite recent weak returns.

For the last five years, the fund has produced an average annual return of 15.7 per cent, one and a half percentage points better than the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index. But Mr Vinik's performance fell short of that of Mr Lynch under whom Magellan enjoyed a 13.4 per cent advantage over the S&P.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SETLS	
Australia 1,6425	France 7.83
Austria 15.90	Germany 2.800
Belgium 48.39	Greece 360.00
Canada 2.02	Hong Kong 11.38
Cyprus 0.8770	India 52.89
Denmark 8.77	Ireland 0.9400
Finland 7.08	Israel 4.95
Italy 2.300	Japan 149.00
Netherlands 2.53	Malaysia 2.15
New Zealand 2.15	Norway 8.72
Portugal 253.00	Sweden 10.11
Saudi Arabia 5.64	Switzerland 1.000
Singapore 2.08	Turkey 112.008
South Africa 8.36	USA 1.4755

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Loss-maker Iberia joins talks on BA's global alliance

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

BRITISH Airways is planning to extend its influence in Europe beyond France and Germany with a possible link-up with the loss-making, heavily-subsidised Spanish state airline, Iberia.

The tie-up would also give BA access to Iberia's Latin American empire where the Spanish carrier remains influential, even though it has been forced to sell most of its stake in the Argentinian airline, Aerolineas Argentinas, to pay off debts of \$470 million.

BA's continuing search for a global alliance with other carriers has been going on for some months. News of a possible connection with Iberia leaked in Holland several months ago but it was confirmed in Madrid yesterday by sources close to the industry ministry. BA adopted its normal stance on mergers, by refusing to comment.

The Spanish carrier, which has been in the red for some time, would also want the three airlines to have cross shareholdings to make the agreement "more solid". Iberia said that "negotiations are on course" with several airlines. Among these are the Dutch airline, KLM, and American Airlines. This could be significant since BA has been involved in well-publicised merger talks with American and in a more private parley with Delta.

Airline business deals depend very much on the attitude of governments. Informal talks this week between the British and American departments of transport have achieved very little. Formal links between BA and an American carrier, plus another European carrier like Iberia, still look some way off.

The biggest drawback in a BA-Iberia link-up is the parlous state of the Spanish carrier. It lost almost \$300 million last year, although since then the management has introduced savings cost cutting to try and get into the black within a year.

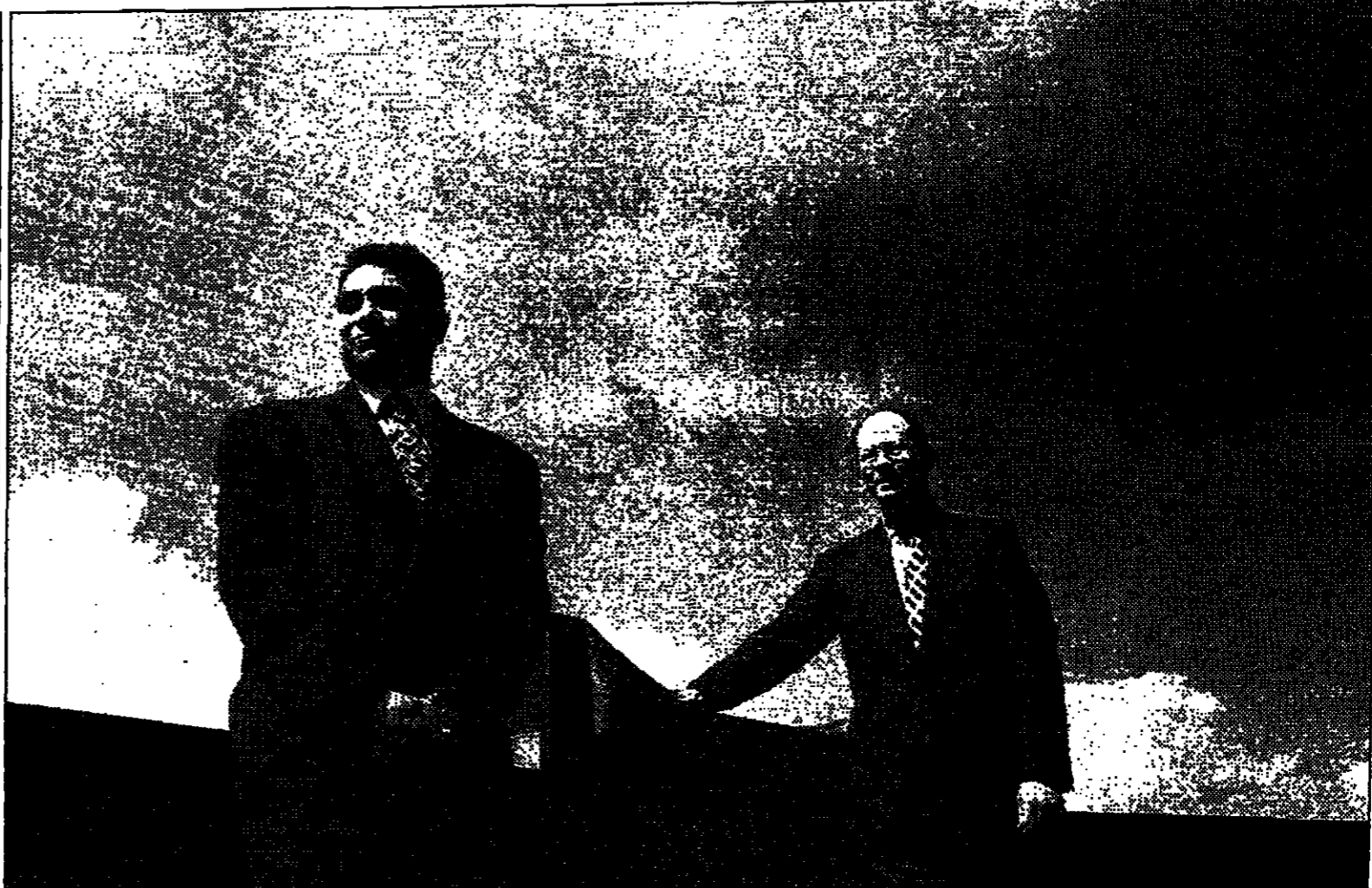
Until Iberia's emergence as a candidate, BA's most likely partner in Europe has looked like KLM, with whom it has been talking for some time. The talks have not collapsed but they are in cold storage.

One of the most important gains for BA in a deal with a European carrier would be a considerable reduction in costs. Senior industry managers have stressed that some of the access charges to key airports in Europe are 20-40 per cent up on their equivalents in the UK.

This is one reason why it is so easy to fly from Britain to some destinations in Europe. For a European carrier, a deal with BA would give it improved access to Heathrow.

BA would, therefore, dearly like another partner in Europe. Industry observers suggested last night that the Spanish government would have to be prepared to sell off a stake in Iberia to a company like BA. The changing political climate in Spain, with the recent election of a right-wing government, makes that more likely.

In general, European airlines are making more profit than for some time. Operating profits on international routes, after interest charges, totalled \$1.05 billion in 1995 compared with a loss of \$90 million in 1994. The Association of European Airlines said that the results were due to cost savings, although the bulk was passed on in the form of lower fares both in Europe and long haul flights.



Cloudy start... Chief executive Ian Harvey (right) and finance director Rusi Káthoke concentrating on existing inventions PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

Red ink fails to slow down patent king

Tony May

BTG — one of the more unusual companies on the stock market — was yesterday unabashed by reporting a 1995 loss of \$20.7 million on turnover of \$20.7 million for its first year as a quoted public company.

It has patents on 1,300 inventions — possibly the best known being the Magnetic

Resonance Imaging body scanner which made the group a £7.2 million profit last year.

It creates patents for new technologies and licenses them across the globe. The company, which gets its investments from universities, government-funded research establishments and companies on both sides of the Atlantic, has to take a long-term view and had warned new in-

vestors that revenues from patents on Pyrethrin, a crop protection agent, were drying up.

Chief executive Ian Harvey and finance director Rusi Káthoke were keen to stress the progress made in creating value from the portfolio of key technologies.

They highlighted the launch by Zeneca of the anticancer drug Tomudex; the continuing development of

the Torotrak infinitely variable car transmission system, which included an agreement with Toyota; the licensing for daily disposable contact lens technology to Bausch & Lomb; and the progress through clinical trials of the company's pharmaceutical portfolio.

Since it had so many patents on its books, it had become more selective in adding to its portfolio and was

concentrating instead on increasing the payoff from existing inventions.

But since it can take many years before inventions yield significant income the group is still looking for promising new ideas and could not resist taking on 104 new inventions in the past year.

Potential winners in its stable include a new form of hip implant and a turbulence control device for ship hulls.

Accountants attack law that can bankrupt them

Roger Cowe

THE accountancy profession yesterday launched a campaign to change the law on professional liability to escape the risk of individual partners' personal bankruptcy in multi-million-pound negligence actions.

The Institute of Directors, the London Investment Banking Association and the National Association of Pension Funds joined the leading accountancy bodies, actuaries and professionals from the building industry in a 15-strong group urging the Government to look into joint and several liability.

Graham Ward, who has led the English chartered accountants' professional liability campaign, said: "The fact that so many and so diverse a group of influential bodies should come together in this way speaks volumes about the severity

of the current situation and the urgency with which further action is needed."

In addition to the principle of joint and several liability, they want to end the position where firms can be sued for massive losses regardless of the scale of their negligence. "Proportionality" has been introduced in the US, is fundamental to European Union law and is being adopted in Commonwealth countries.

The campaign has been sparked by the rising tide of multi-million pound negligence claims against accountancy firms and other professional partnerships.

The scale of claims, most of which are settled out of court, has led to insurers withdrawing from the market for professional indemnity cover, leaving firms highly exposed.

Partnerships are particularly vulnerable because all partners are jointly liable for the negligence of any one of them, which

means that any partner in a firm can be bankrupted if a huge negligence claim is successful.

Some firms have decided to convert to limited companies, while the States of Jersey has published a law which will allow firms to register there as limited liability partnerships.

But the accountants and others want the mainland law changed. In their letter to the trade and industry secretary, Ian Lang, they say: "We all share one overriding concern, based on a conviction that the present regime is not only unfair but also damaging to economic efficiency."

In an initial review earlier this year, the Law Commission concluded there was no legal case for a full inquiry. But Gerry Acher, chairman of the English chartered accountants' audit faculty, said the traditional principles were "out of step with commercial life".

News in brief

Burford seeks £141m for further growth

THE Burford Holdings property group asked shareholders for law changed. In their letter to the trade and industry secretary, Ian Lang, they say: "We all share one overriding concern, based on a conviction that the present regime is not only unfair but also damaging to economic efficiency."

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Names set to back rescue

NAMES at Lloyd's of London are poised to give the insurance market's £3.1 billion rescue package their overwhelming support, according to a survey conducted by market research group Mori. Of the 500 Names questioned, 79 per cent said they now planned to support the deal, which has recently been increased from its original level of £2.8 billion.

A Lloyd's spokesman said the market regularly carried out such surveys. He added that support for the plan was growing among the Names — last November only 58 per cent had been in favour. Next month, the Names are due to receive updated individual statements on the deal. — *Pauline Springett*

GEC in US link-up

GEC has joined forces with the US aerospace group Hughes in an attempt to win a \$550 million missile order from the RAF. GEC will act as sub-contractor, assembling American cruise missiles for Tornado bombers. The deal would give GEC about 10 per cent of the total value of the order.

The company originally submitted its own product for the Conventional Armed Stand-off Missile order. The company faces competition from several other groups, including British Aerospace. The Ministry of Defence is likely to announce its choice this summer. — *Chris Durr*

Asda pumps up petrol war

ASDA escalated the petrol price war yesterday by announcing that it will sell petrol at cost price from tomorrow at its 10 hypermarkets. Marketing director Gwyn Burr said: "Our intention is to put an end to the extravagant claims and deliver honest value and low prices."

The "profit-free" policy will mean a reduction of about 1p per litre, with the price of unleaded petrol falling to 50.5p at the eight English sites and 49.9p at Edinburgh and Govan. — *Roger Cowe*

MPs decide freight line fate

THE fate of a £3 billion, 200-mile rail freight line project between the Midlands and the Channel Tunnel is to be left to a decision by Parliament, rail minister John Watts announced yesterday. The line has been heavily criticised by Tory MPs and local authorities, and the Government believes it has found a neat way to squash the idea.

One of the most controversial propositions is for a six-mile tunnel be built between Olympia, cutting straight through central London to Stratford. Other sections would also have to be built beside existing track. Labour has opposed the project and, in the unlikely event of Parliament approving the scheme, it would have to face a difficult, local public inquiry. — *Keith Harper*

Pep ban appeal

SCOTTISH Amicable is to appeal against the taxman's ban on its new-style Personal Equity Plan, which attempted to shelter investments of up to £50,000 from tax — rather than the £5,000 maximum allowed by the Inland Revenue. The company claims that the Revenue had given its Pep the green light, before it was launched at the beginning of the month, and claims that to outlaw it retrospectively means hundreds of investors who have cashed in other investments will lose out.

The Pep allowed investments of between £10,000 to £50,000 to be sheltered via the ordinary shares of Amicable Strategy Pep, a split capital trust. Shares worth £5,000 could be held in the Pep, but these would own the income and capital growth of other shares and warrants held outside the Pep. — *Teresa Hunter*

New food group chief

DAVID NEWTON is to be replaced after three years as chief executive of food group Hilldown Holdings by former Mars executive George Greener, who takes over on July 1. Mr Greener was until recently chief executive of BAT's financial services operations, after joining from Mars in 1991. — *Roger Cowe*

Toyota profits accelerate

Kevin Rafferty

TOYOTA, Japan's giant motorcar producer, showed its power yesterday when it announced worldwide pre-tax profits of 420 billion yen (£2.63 billion) on sales that were slightly lower at 10,719 billion yen.

The big profits were a tribute to Toyota's determined cost cutting, and the company forecasts even better times ahead, predicting that the profits of the parent will rise by 40 per cent this year as the economy picks up.

The results are not directly comparable with the previous year because Toy-

ota changed its accounting period to end its financial year in March rather than in June.

But the carmaker said that the pre-tax profit for the year that ended in March was equivalent to a 14.8 per cent rise on a full year basis whereas sales dipped by 1 per cent.

The still better performance for the current year will come from "cost cutting and the yen," said vice chairman Masami Iwasaki, clearly relieved that the Japanese currency has softened to 107 against the US dollar, compared with a high of 80 reached in April last year when the soaring yen was hurting Japanese exports.

Most analysts believe that Toyota's predictions are conservative if anything. Edna Clarke of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson said yesterday that "the momentum will start to build up in the second half" as the economy improves and Toyota sees the benefit of the softening yen.

Toyota was the founder of the "lean and mean" production system now adopted worldwide, and will gain even more from having cut its costs.

Nevertheless, conservative Toyota got a shock when its share of the Japanese domestic market slipped last year to 39 per cent, below the magic 40 per cent level.

Drinks lobby steps up campaign to free spirit

OUTLOOK/ Markets in Eastern Europe, the Far East and Latin America will open up, claims the alcohol industry, if UK cuts taxes on booze now. **Pauline Springett** reports

FREE our spirits and give Britain a boost, said the Scotch Whisky Association and its sister the Gin & Vodka Association of Great Britain this week.

Well, okay, what they actually said was that the Government should reduce the tax on spirits in the next budget. This is a long-running campaign, which was energised last year when the Chancellor took the rare step of slicing 4 per cent off tax on spirits.

The basic point of the lobbying is that the industry believes the UK taxes its spirits too highly. This makes it tricky for the UK to urge other countries to reduce their own taxes or to remove the 400 trade barriers that hamper the worldwide export of spirits.

The industry's traditional markets of the UK, US and parts of Europe are flat, even in decline, and prices are under pressure.

The answer is to export more whisky, gin and vodka to countries where they are not natural tipples. In many cases, the market is there and waiting to be exploited since the countries already consume large quantities of local liquor. It is, anticipates the industry, possible to persuade such countries that British imported spirits are "aspirational" drinks.

The big opportunity markets for UK spirits are Eastern Europe, the Far East, and Latin America. In both Poland and Russia, for instance, the average annual consumption of domestic vodka per person (including infants and the very old) is 12 bottles. In South Korea, 21 bottles of spirits are consumed per head each year.

The Scotch Whisky Association argues that Scotch is becoming increasingly sought after as a status drink. Once the basic Scotch becomes established for the masses, it argues, more mature, expensive brands become fashionable.

It is not just the spirits industry which is lobbying for lower taxes. The Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association publishes a report today, claiming cheap beer smuggled across the Channel costs every pub in the country £3,000 a year in lost sales.

The brewers estimate that more than 1.1 million pints a day were sold illegally in this country last year after having been bought in France. French rates of excise duty are about 4p a pint compared to the UK rate of over 30p.

Robin Simpson, director of the association, said: "The solution to this problem, which is threatening pubs and encouraging crime, is to cut the beer tax in Britain."

Over the summer, in the run-up to the next Budget,

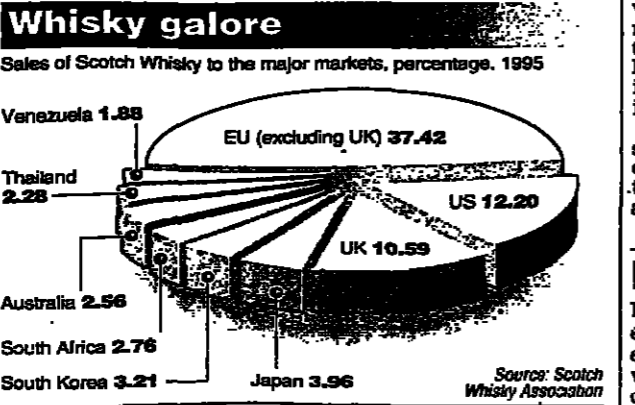
such calls are likely to be more frequent and vociferous from all parts of the industry. The difficulty for the Government is that the industry's arguments, it will doubtless be anxious to avoid outraging the anti-alcohol lobby.

There is also the argument that although the economy may benefit from alcohol sales in terms of jobs and tax revenue, it also has to pay for the social and health problems caused by alcohol abuse. In the same vein it is also potentially awkward for the Government to be an over-enthusiastic champion of say, Scotch whisky, to developing countries.

The spirits industry has thought of all this. At this week's seminar for MPs, Martin Riley, a brand manager at drinks group Allied Domecq argued that the UK industry could actually improve, for instance, the problem of alcohol abuse in Russia.

He reasoned this was because the consumption of imported spirits is increasing the way Russians drink — they are discovering the delights of sipping a long gin and tonic in a bar instead of swigging a neat bottle of vodka on the back seat of a car.

To which one listener responded: "I suppose you'd prove to me the world is flat."



**NOTICE TO
CLYDESDALE BANK
ACCESS ACCOUNTHOLDERS**

Clydesdale Bank PLC announces that the interest rate charged to its personal ACCESS ACCOUNTHOLDERS will be reduced to 1.65% per month for both Advances and other transactions with effect from 1st June 1996. From 1st June 1996 interest and charges are equivalent to an Annual Percentage Rate (APR) as stated in the examples below.

CREDIT LIMIT	APR	CREDIT LIMIT	APR
£500	24.1%	£1,500	22.5%
£750	23.3%	£2,000	22.3%
£1,000	22.9%	£3,000	22.1%

Condition 5 (c) and (d) of the Conditions of Use will be amended accordingly with effect from 1st June 1996.

Clydesdale Bank

Handwritten text in a box: 2001/05/24

Soccer

Vialli puts Gullit before Glasgow

Martin Thorpe and Ian Ross

CHELSEA will today confirm one of soccer's worst-kept secrets when they announce the signing of the Italian striker Gianluca Vialli. The 31-year-old player comes fresh from his European Cup triumph with Juventus on a two-year contract, a deal that his former employers were unwilling to offer him.

to Arsenal but, though he had long phone conversations with the Gunners' midfielder David Platt about such a move, it is understood that Arsenal's manager Bruce Broughton was against it. Vialli is not only yet more flamboyance to the increasingly high-profile Stamford Bridge club, though supporters will be interested to see how he fits into a side alongside Mark Hughes, a player similar to himself.

want to recoup the £1.5 million they paid Aston Villa for him 12 months ago. Nottingham Forest and Derby County are also interested in Saunders, who will be 33 next month and have asked to be kept informed of any development. Gary Speed may announce this weekend where he intends to play next season. The Leeds midfielder is available at \$4 million and must choose between Everton and Villa, with the Merseyside club favourites to sign him.

Myth of Ajax exposed

Martin Thorpe says that without all its key parts the Dutch machine broke down in Rome

AMONG the flares and fireworks, something else was exploded when Juventus lifted the European Cup in Rome on Wednesday night: a myth about the Ajax system. It has long been held that this tactical bedrock is all that matters and that when players are injured or suspended others can be slotted into place like spare parts in an engine without any discernible loss of performance.

the participants to be fully fit if it is to be operated properly. So, though as Dutch title winners, they will be without Reiziger and the influential midfielder Edgar Davids, who are following countless others in leaving Holland for the lure of the lira. They are joining Milan and in a year's time Kluitert is booked on the same route.

will not undermine their joy at the victory. The future for Ajax is another struggle against the pulling power of richer clubs. Though they have qualified for next season's Champions League as Dutch title winners, they will be without Reiziger and the influential midfielder Edgar Davids, who are following countless others in leaving Holland for the lure of the lira. They are joining Milan and in a year's time Kluitert is booked on the same route.



Irish rover... Kilmsnann checks in for acclimatisation

Germany find perfection in chilly east Belfast

Michael Walker finds Berti Vogts upbeat about his squad's Euro 96 preparation

WHEN Berti Vogts informed the German FA last November that he had chosen "someone whose different" to acclimatise for Euro 96, a few within the organisation may have started dreaming of Hawaiian beaches or Spanish golf courses.

the Northern Ireland style, they have good speed and we need this game." Vogts then undermined the stereotyping of the Germans as masters of organisation when he said he knew nothing about the Northern Ireland team and had not even seen a video of it. No doubt he will do, as the two countries meet in a World Cup qualifier in November. By then we may have changed our appraisal of the Germans again, for in Vogts's eyes "this is not a typical German team; we have skill".

watch them train in Germany. Only about 50 journalists and photographers made their way to Blanchflower Park, along with three RUC officers, a guard dog and a handful of local schoolboys who had bunked off for the morning. They watched Sepp Meier put Kopke, Klos and Kahn through vigorous goalkeeper exercises while Vogts oversaw shooting practice in which Kilmsnann and Andreas Moller stood out.

"The Widget."

Pat Pending 1956.



PAT Pending was this mad chap in the 50s, who being only a diminutive 4ft.5in., was called the "Widget". He should not be confused with our "in the bottle Widget" which was invented in 1994.

Advertisement for Fuggles New Old Fashioned Ale, featuring a bottle of beer and the text 'FUGGLES a brand NEW OLD FASHIONED ALE'.

Jess given chance to impress

Patrick Glenn in Connecticut

ON THE basis that one man's meat is another man's poison, the news yesterday that Billy Miller, the Blackburn midfielder, has joined Ally McCoist on Scotland's casualty list before Sunday's match with the United States had a mixed reception.

"I know I've come in by the side door," said Jess, who has 10 caps. "It's my ambition now to prove I should have been here in the first place. Jess's reception from English team-mates at Highfield Road has also put an edge on his ambition, particularly in the matter of Scotland playing England at Wembley in the second of their Group A series on June 15.

Results

Soccer INTERNATIONAL MATCH Chelsea (D) England (H) 3-0. Borussia Dortmund (D) Borussia Dortmund (H) 1-0. Borussia Dortmund (D) Borussia Dortmund (H) 1-0. Borussia Dortmund (D) Borussia Dortmund (H) 1-0.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Kansas City 6, Detroit 4; Texas 6, Minnesota 2; Chicago 2, Toronto 1; Seattle 6, Boston 1; Florida 1, Philadelphia 0; New York 1, St. Louis 0; Houston 5, New York 1; Los Angeles 2, San Diego 0; Philadelphia 2, Pittsburgh 1.

Cricket

RAIN HOGG TROPHY: Glamorgan 124, Derbyshire 118. Derbyshire won on a tied score. The match was abandoned. The match was abandoned. The match was abandoned.

Sport in brief

Injured Muster may miss French Open

THOMAS MUSTER, the world No. 2, sprained his right ankle during a routine warm-up for an Austrian tournament match yesterday and may be unable to defend his French Open title in Paris next week. The 28-year-old Austrian, beaten only three times on clay in the past two years and recently Italian Open champion for the third year in a row, immediately withdrew from the quarter-finals of the St Pölten Grand Prix, where he had been due to meet the Italian Andrea Gaudenzi.

Wigan beef up for Bath

WIGAN will field two former rugby union internationals in their 15-man side for the second leg of their cross-country challenge to Bath, writes Paul Fitzpatrick. Wigan, 82-6 winners in the league rules game at Maine Road, come to Twickenham tomorrow with Valiga Tuigamala, the former All Black wing, and Simeon Tatum, a World Cup player for Western Samoa, in the pack. Henry Paul will partner Gary Connolly in the centre and Joe Lydon returns at fly-half. If Shaun Edwards is rested - he has a rib injury - Craig Murdoch will replace him and Andy Farrell will wear the captain's armband.

Top athletes tested six times

Jonathan Edwards and Kelly Holmes, Britain's most successful athletes last season, were also the most frequently tested for drugs. Figures released yesterday show that both were tested six times - four times at meetings and twice out of competition. All tests were negative, as were the IAAF's tests on 64 other British athletes. Linford Christie and Tony Jarrett also had six tests. There were five for Colin Jackson and four for Mick Hill, Dalton Grant, Steve Smith and Paula Radcliffe.

Spaniard wins Italian stage

Angel Edo of Spain won the fifth stage of the Giro d'Italia yesterday by heading a mass sprint to Crotona. Silvio Martinello, third home, retained the leader's pink jersey with 80 cyclists less than 50 seconds behind him. Today's stage to Catanzaro in Calabria includes two mountain passes.

China back in badminton final

China reached their seventh consecutive Uber Cup final in women's badminton after a 5-0 drubbing of Denmark. They were competing in their first semi-final since 1994. Indonesia beat South Korea 4-1 to set up a repeat of the 1994 final, which they won at home. This year's final will be in Hong Kong.

New-look GB hockey team

Great Britain's hockey management team, installed yesterday on the departure of the coach David Whitlock, have chosen Guy Fortham and included Jason Lee for Britain's key against Germany, the Olympic champions, at Milton Keynes on Sunday. writes Pat Rowley. Tedington's men, in Prague, and Slough ladies, at Russelsheim in Germany, represent England in the European Club Championship over the next four days.

Rugby Union

Kerr offer puts onus on Brittle

ROBERT ARMSTRONG DONALD KERR, chief negotiator for the leading clubs in their bitter dispute with Twickenham, has offered to stand down from the next round of talks if today's emergency meeting of the Rugby Football League's full committee ends in deadlock. Kerr will do so only if his RFU counterpart Cliff Brittle does likewise in a common attempt to reach an early settlement.

In a statement yesterday on behalf of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, Kerr acknowledged the possibility that a personality clash between himself and Brittle might be preventing an agreement. Kerr has met with a series of rebuffs from Brittle during the past two months and his offer might be seen as a means of removing the hardline chairman of the RFU executive committee from the negotiations.

Cricket

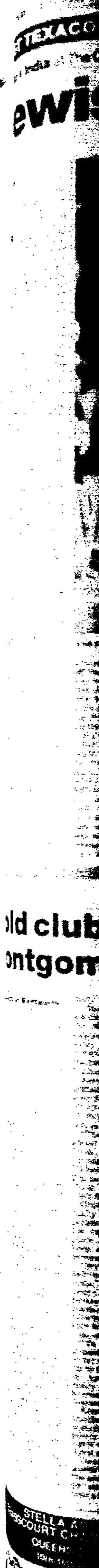
Advertisement for Cricket News and Scores, featuring the number 0891 22 88+ and a list of county scores.

Rugby Super League

Advertisement for Rugby Super League, featuring the number 0930 168+ and a list of team scores.

Hockey

Advertisement for Hockey, featuring the number 0930 168+ and a list of team scores.



FIRST TEXACO ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL

England v India at The Oval

Lewis enjoys a rich return

Mike Selvey

PRODIGAL cricketer returned to the England fold yesterday. As the promised rain began to mist in across the ground, Chris Lewis, enigmatic, mercurial and a man whose career has seen enough false dawns to drive a rooster drollily with confusion, produced a devastating spell of seam bowling that has probably set the seal on the first limited-overs international. India were asked to chase 292 to win. Fed a new-ball diet of dross, they had set off at such a scorching pace that they must have been thinking about employing re-entry shields. But in 21 balls Lewis, shirt-tails flying, took four wickets for six runs, Peter Martin chipped in with the crucial wicket of Sachin Tendulkar when the little genius seemed set on running away with the match, and by the time the weather put paid to play India had slumped from 51 for no wicket to 96 for five from 17 overs.



And that makes four... India's Manjrekar walks after playing on as Chris Lewis completes his haul yesterday off 21 balls at a cost of six runs

voured with relish, taking 15 off the first over. When Cork was replaced by Martin after two overs, Rathore hit the new bowler for three boundaries in his first over, 15 coming from that as well. The 50 partnership arrived inside six overs. But the transformation also began in the sixth over. Lewis too had made a nervous start, with Tendulkar pulling him mightily for six before edging him to the third-man boundary. In his next over, however, Lewis pitched the ball well up to Rathore, who shuffled across his stumps and was leg-before. Lewis was extravagant in his celebration. Two balls later he was at it

again when Kumble, an expendable batsman promoted to have a slog, edged to second slip, where Hick took a comfortable catch. It was Martin, however, one of the few England players to emerge with credit from the fiasco at the end of the winter, who struck the heaviest blow to Indian hopes. With the adrenalin coursing through his system he attempted to dispatch a good-length ball towards Vauxhall Bridge, missed and was given out leg-before by Ray Julian, standing in his first international. Although it struck Tendulkar's back leg there was sufficient of the wicket visible to suggest the ball might have

been heading down the leg side. Tendulkar's 30 had come from 19 balls. Lewis was not yet finished, however. Mike Atherton, knowing that Navjot Singh could be a mighty blitzer of spin but is reputed to be suspect against pace, crowded the new batsman with a short leg and then saw Lewis tear through a tentative forward prod to clip the top of the off stump. When in Lewis's next over Sanjay Manjrekar pushed forwards and edged on to his leg stump, the prodigal's day was complete. In the morning England, who had won the toss, found batting a trial against some well directed pace bowling

from Javagal Srinath, a high-class, and Venkatesh Prasad. With any luck the bowlers might have scuppered the England top order. Brown was dropped at slip off his second ball and then played an innings of torment - outlasting Atherton and Neil Smith, both of whom played well - that was ended only when Paras Mhambrey mercifully bowled him with an inswinger. Brown plays very much to the off side, and the bowlers exploited that, but one hopes this innings was an aberration. Resurrection came in the form of a fourth-wicket stand of 84 in 16 overs between Hick and Thorpe, and later, after

failures by Stewart and Irani, another of 76 in 10 overs between Hick and Ealham, whose 34-ball innings reproduced the form he habitually shows for Kent and which brought his selection. Hick, meanwhile, had played precisely the right innings in the circumstances, working the ball into the spaces rather than going for the big shots. Just once, when he clumped Tendulkar high over long-off, did he break out, and there were only four boundaries to go with it. With both his century and the end of the innings in sight, he lofted Srinath to deep extra cover, where Manjrekar took a tumbling catch.

Paul Weaver at The Oval on Ray Julian, a gunslinger umpire

THE Test and County Cricket Board, which deals with most problems with a fudge and a wink, must be complimented on this occasion. With rain and bad light always likely to bring play to a premature close yesterday, they took positive action to hurry the match along. They appointed a pinch-umpire. As far as cricketers are concerned umpires are either "outers" or "not outers". Ray Julian, standing in his first international match in his 60th year, is an "outer", the fastest finger in the white-coated business. Dickie Bird, for example, is a "not-outer" unless the delivery under analysis is so full of devil that it would clearly have reduced all three stumps to smouldering sawdust. Weary bowlers will tell you that to get a leg-before out of Dickie you really have to come up against Sam Cook, the old Gloucestershire umpire. "Never sweep when Sam is standing," batsmen were warned; the spring-loaded finger would go up. At Cardiff in 1986, in a match between Glamorgan and Sussex, Julian gave eight successive lbw decisions, and yesterday we had a cameo from the ageing gunslinger. Sachin Tendulkar had raced to 30 from only 19 deliveries and was threatening to take the game away from England when Julian upheld an lbw appeal from Peter Martin. The ball was going down; it might even have missed another set of stumps. At least there is no partiality about Julian; he fires them all out. This for-

mer Leicestershire wicket-keeper, who made his debut in 1933, is in his 28th year on the umpires' list. He said yesterday: "It's been a wonderful day. The way Tendulkar started off I thought it would be all over by five o'clock."

England's pinch-batsman, Alistair Brown, was only a qualified success. His 37 came from 53 balls, so he was hardly suffering from Jaysauri Fever. Mark Ealham's 40, with two sixes and three fours, was more impressive. On Wednesday the tip was that he would not even play. "I was given my cap and sweater on Wednesday but I didn't wear them until today," he said. "I wanted to wait until I was in the national team. Last season the Kent all-rounder hit a Sunday league hundred from only 44 balls, with seven sixes and nine fours. But he broke his favourite one-day hat last week. The former Kent captain, watched it on TV. "Dad likes to take a back seat where my cricket is concerned, although he will give me advice if asked." Wednesday the tip was that he would not even play. "I was given my cap and sweater on Wednesday but I didn't wear them until today," he said. "I wanted to wait until I was in the national team. Last season the Kent all-rounder hit a Sunday league hundred from only 44 balls, with seven sixes and nine fours. But he broke his favourite one-day hat last week. The former Kent captain, watched it on TV. "Dad likes to take a back seat where my cricket is concerned, although he will give me advice if asked." Wednesday the tip was that he would not even play.

Scoreboard

Table with match results and scores for various teams including Kent, Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Essex.

Golf

Cold clubs for Montgomerie

David Davies at Wentworth

THE incredible shrinking man that is Colin Montgomerie - 38th gone and more going - is not exactly working off his weight on the golf course. On the eve of the 21 million Volvo PGA Championship here he revealed that his preparation had not included a practice round "because I'm perfectly happy with my game". Montgomerie, who has just finished competing in both the Benson and Hedges event and the Andersen Consulting World Championship, added: "I think I've played enough recently, and in any case I'm not the best practicer in the game. There are a lot of guys out there beating balls until six at night and that eventually breeds less quality and more quantity. I think they are wasting their time."

ously about reporting him. "This is our livelihood, it's not like weekend golf," added the New Zealander, who is paired with Sherry again today and tomorrow. "We criticize spectators for distracting us, you don't expect it inside the ropes." Eventually Lyle and Nobilo settled for a few quiet words with Sherry's caddy, with instructions to pass them on. "Everyone," said Nobilo, "deserves a second chance." "The only thing I was told about," said Sherry later, "was not walking on the through-line behind a hole. I'd never heard of that before. I'm not aware of doing anything else, that I shouldn't have done." Growing grass is not normally a problem in this temperate climate, but growing the right grass in the right place at the right time has been exceedingly difficult at Wentworth this year. "We're around three weeks behind with our preparations," the course superintendent Chris Kennedy said yesterday, "because of the bitter north-east wind that has been blowing for so long. It's very rare for it to be so cold at this time of year." "To get good grass growth it needs to be about 54F, but so far this year it has only got up to that once, in the middle of April; and then in the really vital week before the tournament it was around 47 degrees all the time."

Championship: Kent v Yorkshire

Kent left uneasy by Byas

David Foot at Canterbury

TRADITIONALLY at the St Lawrence ground there has been as much affection for left-handers as for the steadfast old third-man tree itself. Even yesterday, bewhiskered members were talking of Woolley's wristy elegance as if they had seen every one of his sublime pre-war appearances here. But the left-handers syndrome makes Kent uneasy when working against them; witness the stand of Michael Bevan and Yorkshire's captain David Byas, which threatened to dominate the play. Bevan's wicket was the third to go Kent's way. He is a batsman vibrantly in form and it came as an utter surprise when he top-edged to mid-on after scoring 80. This was his fourth fifty in half a

dozen championship innings, apart from the hundred against Derbyshire. In just over two hours he had with unerring timing stroked 11 fours. He and Byas added 128 against a minimum of bad balls by Kent's persevering attack. Byas was more circumspect, eyeing the various bowlers as if back at Kilham checking on the livestock. He has, in appearance and attitude, the reassuring solidarity of the farmer he is through the winter months. Byas went, like Bevan, to Nick Preston, who earlier put an end to Anthony McGrath's attractive miscellany of drives. Three wickets for Preston, and he had not previously taken one in the championship. Eighteen overs were lost through rain and bad light. At the close Yorkshire were 261 for five, with Blakey and Morris averting late reverses.

Illingworth's book upsets Lancashire

LANCASHIRE stepped up the pressure on Ray Illingworth yesterday by asking Lord's to start disciplinary proceedings against the chairman of selectors, writes Paul Fitzpatrick. Illingworth is already the subject of a Test and County Cricket Board disciplinary inquiry over his book One-Man Committee and its criticism of the fast bowler Devon Malcolm. Lancashire are understood to be upset at references in the book to the county's England captain Michael Atherton, believing the comments are in breach of the board's regulations. The county's chairman Bob Bennett said he had informed Atherton and Lancashire's former coach David Lloyd, now coach of England, of the decision.

Derbyshire v Essex

Harris cuts to the quick as Malcolm bristles

David Hopps at Derby

WHAT Devon Malcolm would have given to have had Raymond Illingworth in his sights yesterday. Subjected to an ill-tempered bout of chuntering by the chairman of selectors, unconvincedly dressed up as good old-fashioned Northern plain speaking, Derbyshire's England fast bowler had every incentive to rouse himself into action. If there was no Illingworth, there was at least one of his messengers. Graham Gooch, newly elected to the selectorial panel, needed to wait only until his third over of the day before his broken wicket provided evidence that the bowler has pride

duty, and DeFreitas, who is still not restored to full fitness from an elbow operation after his winter in South Africa. But they have unearthed a diamond in the 22-year-old quick bowler, Andrew Harris. Harris's figures held up impressively during a second-wicket stand of 158 in 59 overs between Robinson and Hussain. Robinson, initially the more reliable in a keenly contested morning, must have been aghast to fall on 74 to a non-turning off spinner when Derbyshire's captain Jones was reduced to having an exploratory over himself. Hussain, arresting a lean run, fell in the next over for 31 when the deservingly Harris had him leg-before, leaving Law to reassert Essex's superiority before the rain came.

Scoreboard

Table with match results and scores for various teams including Kent, Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Essex.

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Advertisement for Dakarin Athlete's Foot powder, featuring an image of a shoe and the product packaging.

Advertisement for Stella Artois Grasscourt Championships at Queens Club, including ticket information.

Vertical text on the left edge of the page, including "Friday May 24 1996", "ster may", "h Open", "for Bath", "ested six times", "s Italian stage", "badminton final", "3 hockey team", "offer puts", "on Brittle", "Cricke", "0891 22", "168", "3591 22", "ort Sp".

CRICKET: Lewis rules the day as the weather delays England, page 15
SOCCER: Gianluca Vialli leaves triumphant Juventus for Chelsea, page 14

SportsGuardian

BARMBY'S GOALS RAISE THE STAKES FOR PLACES IN VENABLES' FINAL SQUAD



Chinese checked... Paul Gascoigne scores the third goal for England, after which the 65,000 crowd changed allegiance and started booing their team

International match: China 0, England 3

Gazza leads the cavalcade

David Lacey sees two former Spurs guide England through a shrill test in Beijing

ENGLAND survived the shrillest of China syndromes without breakages in the Workers' Stadium here yesterday and did as much as any team could have in the circumstances to put themselves into a positive frame of mind for the European Championship, now only a fortnight distant. If it seemed a long way to come to prove that Barmby can still punish slack defences and Adams is happier in a back four than a back three, at least the team Terry Venables put out did its best to show him that the competition for places in his final squad of 22 is far from over. Barmby scored twice and Gascoigne once, with Anderton heavily involved in each

of the goals. In fact the match fast developed into a cavalcade of Spurs past and present, with Walker eventually replacing Flowers, whose nervous keeping did him no favours. With Sheringham, the Spurs player most crucial to Venables' plans for Euro 96, rested along with Seaman, Pearce, Ince and Platt, the evening could have become little more than a check on England's spare parts. Two things prevented this: the high-quality performances of Gascoigne and Anderton, and the nature of the occasion. Play China at Wembley with the stadium two-thirds empty and one would expect England to win with last night's ease. Meet them in Beijing, with 65,000 packing

the ground and every other spectator seemingly equipped with a trumpet or a klaxon designed to perforate an eardrum at 10 paces, and the task is not so simple. Refusing to become caught up in this attempt to re-enact the battle of the Imjin River, Venables' mixture of leading players, supporting players, spear-carriers and we'll-let-you-knows impressed as much through the composure of their football as through its ultimate effect. Barmby, who did not score in his last 14 games for Middlesbrough, may have advanced his case for inclusion in the final squad by a couple of rungs. "His positional play was first-class," said Venables. Yet, while Barmby advanced in the hope of being recognised, McManaman at times looked as if he had forgotten the password. His touch on the ball lacked assurance, and where others found space at will he often found himself heading up a cul-de-sac. It was not the best of nights for Liverpool players. Gascoigne's brilliant form led him all over the field and this, combined with Anderton's tendency to move into the middle, saw Redknapp often becoming a bystander. Late in the game Fowler, given the last 18 minutes after

three-man defence were soon allied, principally because China did not allow the experiment to continue. As Venables said afterwards: "We thought they might play with just two up in attack but they played with three or four up, so we had to adapt." This meant that Southgate, ostensibly the replacement for Ince, became the supporting centre-back, a role he

adopted with ease. He even ended up with a Villa teammate, Ehiogu, the 27th new cap under Venables, alongside him. Of the Neville brothers Gary looked the seasoned international. Phillip the raw recruit. To be fair to the younger Neville, however, he did frequently find himself up against China's best player, Hai Hai-Dong, whose speed when he moved to the right flank would have severely tested Pearce. However, despite Hai-Dong's pace and some clever approach work, the Chinese struggled to find the quality of cross or final pass seriously concern Adams and his defenders. In fact the overall superiority of England's football had the crowd changing allegiance long before the end, booing the home team and cheering the visitors. Nobody left the Workers' Stadium saying that if you had seen one great ball you had seen them all.

Nobody left saying that if you'd seen one great ball you'd seen them all

No happy medium for ghost writers



Frank Keating

ON TOUR once, I came across Ian Botham. "Beefy," I asked, "why are you looking so disgruntled?" Because, he said, "my ruddy ghost writer keeps sending back such a load of crap". Another time, a few years later, I found Graham Gooch chucking. Donald Carr, whose job at Lord's then (and still) takes in the vetting of players' books, had just telephoned about Graham's latest offering, which had just come out in paperback. "Gooch, old boy, I have just read Chapter Three about ranting West Indian politicians upsetting your cricket and I've blue-pencilled the lot of it," said censor Carr, or words to that effect. "Sorry about that, Donald," replied Gooch, "but this is the paperback; you allowed the very same words with flying colours in the hardback which has already been selling well for a year." "Oh, did I?" said Donald. "I suppose I must have."

around Lord's long lead in these censorship definitions. Up to the players' new professional contracts, there was a short period when anything went and ghost-written columns by players merrily warmed the winters. During the 1991 World Cup, England's then manager Geoff Cooke, with rather dismissive snarls, responded to a civil query from the man from the Times by saying: "Really, you should know you mustn't believe everything you read in the sports pages." Without a blink the man from the Thunderer replied: "Mr Cooke, 90 per cent of what I read in the sports pages these days seems to be written by your players." In the England squad's brand-new code of conduct, written into their salaries contracts, the Rugby Football Union has written in a clause which has a player liable to disciplinary action in the event of being found guilty "of broadcasting or writing in a defamatory way of opponents". What? If a fellow runs up and kicks you in the groin at Twickenham, can't you tell your ghost writer? Just as Illingworth did to his when he admits to chivvying Malcolm — or "bollocking him", in the chairman of selectors' own phrase — during the woebegone tour of South Africa last winter. So let's hear Devon's ripe answer to that. We could go on forever with this knockabout stuff. And why not? And no censorship from Lord's either.

BUT what's this? Surely Lord's judge and jury cannot let Chairman Ray get away with ordering blatant flouting of the sacred Laws of Cricket? Law 42 (8) unequivocally states that: "Umpires shall consider intimidation to be the deliberate bowling of fast short-pitched balls intended or likely to inflict physical injury on the striker. The relative skill of the striker shall also be taken into consideration." In the fifth Test in Cape Town in January the South African teenager Paul Adams came in at No. 11, having had but two innings in a Test match before and having yet to score a run. Yet chivalrous Devon's law-abiding bowling had the chairman apoplectic, as we learned this week. "What more could Malcolm ask for? A new ball against a No. 11, with an open chequebook to run in and knock him over. Adams got only one proper bounce from Malcolm, who had been ordered to pepper him." Got him. Open and shut. C'mon, Donald, start jangling Lord's keys to that dungeon.

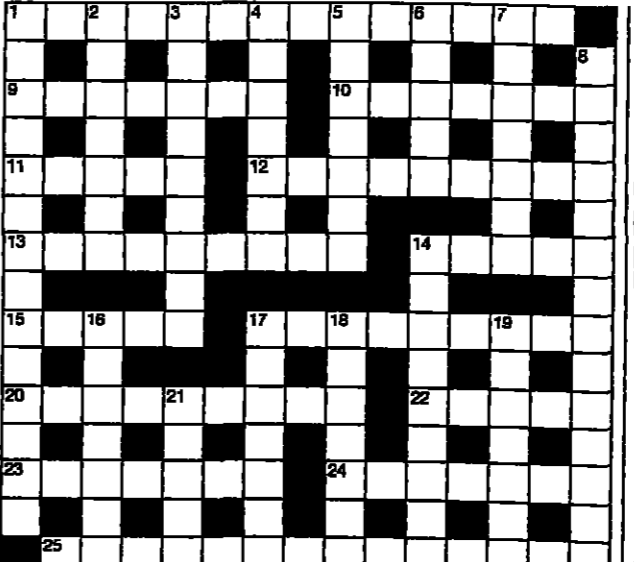
Sun sets on Korean dream move

John Duncan and Grahame Lloyd THE football season may be over in Wales but the repercussions of last Sunday's Welsh Cup final continue to reverberate through the valleys. That final was won by the village side Llansantffraid, against all the odds, 3-2 on penalties against all-conquering Barry Town. The mid-Wales village team

now qualify for Europe alongside Liverpool, Barcelona and Benfica in the Cup Winners' Cup. As if that were not glory enough, their top striker and assistant manager Tommi Morgan was immediately offered a big-money move to South Korea, an agent for a Seoul club having faxed Wales with an offer after seeing the cup final on World Service television. "The player must be very fast, have good physical strength, good shooting and scoring and good technique," the fax read. "The club would provide an apartment, car, medical insurance and air ticket for him and his family during the two-year contract; tax is only five per cent." Great, thought Morgan, a building society manager in Aberystwyth, having at first feared the fax was a joke. "When it turned out to be genuine I was obviously interested. The

League of Wales has been criticised a lot but the standard in Korea is high, so for a coach there to be interested speaks volumes." Sadly, this is the point where things started to go wrong. When it was gently pointed out that Morgan is 38 — spritely, athletic, skilful, but definitely 38 — the rising sun set on his ambitions. "Unfortunately when they discovered my age their offer was withdrawn," he said glumly.

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- Across
1 Meat dish, cold, I study with the ardour when around the North (8,3,5)
9 Prescribe a quiet drink containing a drop of orange (7)
10 Former emperor appearing in extravagant saris, naturally (7)
11 Suction tube showing blemishes, on reflection (5)
12 Handsome lover to sue after breakfast (9)
13 Knife, say, holy man plunged into frozen fish (4,5)
14 Holiday island, separate, Di's abandoned (5)
15 Car finally stuck in a byway in N. Ireland (5)
17 Comic tale I certainly produce when out of work (2,7)
20 A happy worried about policeman returning for some spurious books (9)
22 Fate provides a warm coat, as they say (5)
23 At home an admirer cheers an exotic princess (7)
24 Quite exciting, perhaps, tho' this is questionable (7)
25 All unit, after conflict, has flushed look, showing peevish attitude (3-11)
Down
1 Form One name a vessel in ancient language (9,5)
2 Rogue turning over foreign money creates hazard (7)
3 Let out without assistance, was devastated (4,5)
4 The thing found in a message that can be quoted (7)
5 Game in which Helen grips flexible bat (7)
6 A role that's distinct (5)
7 Disgusting negative is shown before the 'Ouse' (7)
8 Part of make-up causing

Ruddles County Riddles.

- No. 6. Rope Trick.
Bill Allen was running bridge could only support he missed the train.
to catch the train home 181 lbs - Bill knew he When he told his wife
after work - on the way weighed 180, and the Angie, who is a circus
back he had bought two four packs one pound performer, why he was
four packs of Ruddles each - Bill decided the late, she immediately
County. As he was late only way to get himself came up with a solution
and due to miss the train and his beloved County to solve his dilemma.
he decided to use a short across was to make two Can you work out
cut which took him over a trips across the bridge Angie's solution?
small rope bridge. carrying one pack at a
Bill knew that the time. But by doing this



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